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Meningitis takes art historian's life at 54

By MITRA HESHMATI
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Just one day after being diagnosed with a meningococcal infection, History of Art professor Nancy Forgione, 54, died at St. Joseph Medical Center on Sunday.

This is the second case of a sudden infection of meningococcus bacteria — the most dangerous form of the disease, which the common vaccine cannot prevent — at Homewood in two years. Sophomore Gilbert Dulvaisant died from the disease last fall.

"In contrast to the situation of a student with a meningococcal infection living in a dormitory setting where close contact with other students is very possible, the risk to students, to faculty and staff in this case is very low. We expect that few, if any, students, faculty or staff will need preventive treatment with antibiotics or will need to seek medical attention," Alain Joffe

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COURTESY OF JHU GAZETTE
Forgione passed away on Sunday.

Early admit acceptance rate to drop

By JILL PRESCHER
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Following an increasing trend in competitiveness in the applicant pool, the Admissions office expects the early decision admit rate to be slightly lower than last year.

There were 997 early decision applicants this year compared to 1,004 last year. The admit rate last year was 48 percent: John Latting, director of undergraduate admissions, expects this year's admit rate to be around 45 percent.

Thirty-nine percent of the current freshman class applied to

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University ushers in holiday season with Quad lighting



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER

The Lighting of the Quad ceremony was held this past Monday, Dec. 4, bringing together the Homewood community to celebrate this holiday season.

Hopkins launches business, education schools

Funded by a trustee emeritus' \$50 million donation, the two programs will begin enrollment in January 2007

By JAMES FREEDMAN
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Hopkins will establish separate schools of business and education, funded by a \$50 million donation, pending approval from University trustees, Hopkins officials announced Tuesday.

The Carey Business School and the School of Education will replace the School of Professional Studies in Business and Education (SPSBE) on Jan. 1. The new Business School will offer Hopkins undergraduates the option of completing a five-year combined B.A.-B.S./MBA program.

"It seeks very much ... to combine business training with the cross-disciplinary knowledge that a student will get elsewhere at Johns Hopkins and that is a very innovative and distinctive approach to what most business schools are doing today," Dennis O'Shea, spokesman for the University, said.

To that end, the Carey School will not accept applicants from other colleges, at least initially.

"The focus is on providing an opportunity for undergraduates," Pamela Cranston, who will become interim dean of the Carey Business School until a national search for a new dean, which is expected to take six to 12 months, can be completed, said.

"In the short term, the goal for the Business School is to develop full-time programs for the undergraduates," she add-

ed. Opening it up to other applicants in the future is also a possibility.

The stated reasoning behind this move is to create business leaders who are not merely "generic" by combining business education with interdisciplinary studies at Homewood.

"Most business schools produce business leaders, for lack of a better term, in a vacuum," Cranston said. "The focus of the Hopkins Business School will be to take business but apply it to the field that you're actually interested in, and link the two of them together ... You're not going to end up being your all-purpose jack-of-all-trades business manager."

According to Cranston, it was important to create dedicated programs because SPSBE caused confusion and made it difficult to attract top faculty.

"You can imagine how faculty and deans might think twice about being in a school called the School of Professional Studies," she said. "It may provide an opportunity to recruit and retain senior leadership for both the Education School and the Business School because they're part



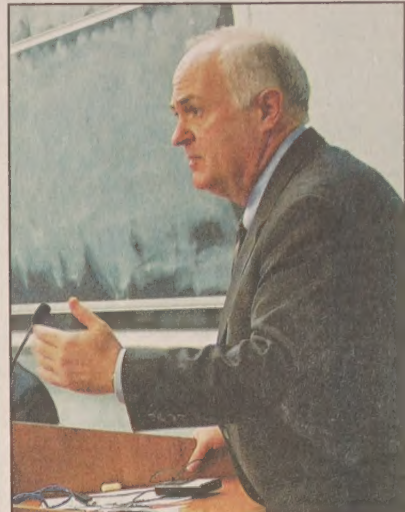
COURTESY OF JHU GAZETTE

The new business school will be named for trustee emeritus Carey.

of their own discipline, instead of their own hybrid model."

Ralph Fessler will be dean of the new School of Education. He has served as dean of SPSBE since 2000. The School of Education, although operating under a variety of names over the years, has an even longer history than the School of Business. It has been around since 1901, according to Fessler, while a program in business education didn't emerge until 1916.

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SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER

Knapp will begin serving at GWU in August 2007.

Provost Knapp chosen as new GWU president

BY CINDY CHEN
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The George Washington University named JHU Provost Steven Knapp to be its 16th President, effective Aug. 1, 2007.

Knapp was unanimously chosen by GW's presidential search committee to succeed current President Stephen Joel Trachtenberg.

Knapp expressed great enthusiasm in this appointment at GW, where he said he hopes to pursue the same priorities that he had here at Hopkins.

"It's an exciting opportunity to continue [at GW] what I've worked on here," Knapp said.

Working closely with President Brody, much of his work here has focused on undergraduate student life, and Knapp expects to address some of the same concerns in GW.

Among all his achievements at Hopkins, Knapp expressed that he was most pleased with the team of deans he has recruited during his career as provost. He further commented that they have all worked well together as a collaborative group, raising substantial funds and at the same time

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City politicians look ahead to wide-open race for mayor in '07

By SAL GENTILE
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

As the dust settles around last month's contentious race for governor, and Baltimore Mayor Martin O'Malley prepares for the move to Annapolis next year, city politicians are doing what they do after every election — getting ready for another one.

With O'Malley preparing to ascend to the governor's mansion nearly 11 months out of next year's race for mayor, politicians across the city — including City Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke — have begun to emerge as potential candidates in what many believe will be a wide-open election.

Clarke, a controversial figure for her role in some of the University's most intense struggles with the community, has often been mentioned as a potential candidate. And the speculation surrounding the race has only intensified now that O'Malley will be leaving office next year.

Though most campaign contributors have donated as much as they legally can this year to candidates in the high-stakes races for governor and U.S. Senate, some of the city's biggest names have been scrounging together valuable campaign dollars before the fundraising intensifies in January.

City Council President Sheila Dixon, who will replace O'Malley until at

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Students remember Bhopal accident with campus memorial

By KATLYN TORGERSON
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Students held a memorial for the victims of the Bhopal, India chemical accident of 1984 which has often been cited as the single worst industrial accident in history. The event aimed to raise awareness of the victims who are still suffering from the disaster decades later.

Saturday was the 22nd anniversary of the incident, when 40 tons of highly toxic methyl isocyanate was released into the city of Bhopal, in the state of Madhya Pradesh, immediately killing at least 3,000 people and injuring what

would eventually come to number hundreds of thousands more.

"People look at it as something that's over; they don't necessarily realize that it's still going on" sophomore Aarthi Rao, who helped to organize the memorial, said.

Rao claimed that there are continuing problems as a result of the incident because much of the industrial waste has not been removed from the environment, resulting in major health problems.

"20,000 people are still drinking contaminated water 20 years later,"

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News Analysis

most intense struggles with the community, has often been mentioned as a potential candidate. And the speculation surrounding the race has only intensified now that O'Malley will be leaving office next year.

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City Council President Sheila Dixon, who will replace O'Malley until at

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Professor's sudden passing

felt across JHU community

Univ. announces plan to launch business school

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director of the Health and Wellness Center, wrote in a letter to the community.

Forgione taught at Hopkins since 1998 and was a two-time graduate of the Krieger School of Arts & Sciences. She received a bachelor degree in humanistic studies in 1974 and later, a doctorate in the history of art in 1993, writing her dissertation on the French artist Edouard Vuillard.

She taught undergraduate courses in 19th century European art and abstract expressionism and a part of the survey course "Introduction to the History of European Art." Students and colleagues recounted her warmth and passion for art history, saying Forgione's presence will be sorely missed.

"She was a wonderful teacher and colleague, tireless in her concern for her students, as radiantly energetic as she was modest."

— HENRY MAGUIRE, HISTORY OF ART PROFESSOR

was very disciplined, precise, and also very caring. She will be truly missed," Cakmak added.

Forgione leaves her husband, Michael Hill, who graduated Hopkins in 1972, and their two sons.

"It truly is a tragic loss for our community. She was, as a colleague of mine commented, the kind of person who could make your day better with just a quick conversation while passing you in the hallway," Adam Falk, dean of Arts & Sciences, said.

"I only got here in August and knew Nancy only for a few months. That said, it was enough time to get to know what a warm and generous person she was. Her positive and engaged presence in the department and on campus is sorely missed," Bibiana Obler, postdoctoral fellow in the department of history of art, said.

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"The school we're evolving from has played a very important role in the history of Johns Hopkins and in many ways it served as an incubator for many parts of the University, [but] this is really positive across the board. It's a maturing of those two areas in education and business to a point in which they're ready to mature as their own schools."

Having two separate programs instead of one will help recruit students, Fessler said.

"I think the fact that they were not in schools that held the title of their disciplines was a constraining factor," he said. "Take the business side, for example. Not being a stand-alone business school certainly did not help [in] recruiting students ... didn't help in creating an identity for a business school that the Carey School would have. I think the same is true for education."

However, the combined program comes too late for many current Hopkins undergraduates.

"We don't know exactly how soon we're going to get it off the ground," she said. "It's obviously going to be late for this year's seniors. Our hope would be that at the very least we'd be able to get something up and running that the current Sophomore class could enter."

Admission will also be highly selective, at least at first, with the initial group of students accepted numbering no more than 30, and



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WPCAREY.ASU.EDU](http://wpcarey.asu.edu)
The Carey Business School, which already has a program at Arizona State University, will open a school at Hopkins in January.

expanding to about 50 students a year once the program gets off the ground, according to Cranston.

"Initially, the focus is on providing an opportunity for Hopkins undergraduates," she said.

"Hopkins is noted for innovation, for excellence, for applying the knowledge that's developed here to real problems in the world, and I would expect that from the Carey Business School," she added.

The Carey Business School is named in honor of the great-great-grandfather of trustee emeritus William Polk Carey, whose W. P. Carey Foundation will pay for half of the Business School's \$100 million funding plan. The other \$50 million will come from other donors, according to administrators.

Carey previously established the W. P. Carey Business School at Arizona State University in

2003, and had given \$2 million to the W. P. Carey Entrepreneurship and Management program in the School of Engineering at Hopkins. Students wishing to take part in the five-year combined program will likely have to take classes in the entrepreneurship program, according to Cranston.

—Staff writer Sammy Rose Saltzman also contributed to this report.

Clarke, others look to Jan. to decide mayoral prospects

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1
least 2008, leads the field with more than \$278,000 — a strong financial edge that will only add to the advantage she is guaranteed by incumbency.

Clarke — who has twice led the council as its president and launched an unsuccessful bid for mayor in 1995 — has not received a single contribution since 2004.

As for whether that means

she's bowing out, Clarke took the same tact as most of her potential competitors.

"I'm just not at a point where I'm ready to talk about that yet," she said.

But Arthur Murphy, partner at Annapolis-based consulting firm The Democracy Group, didn't think Clarke would end up running.

"She's not interested," he said, instead naming some of Dixon's biggest would-be rivals, including Comptroller Joan Pratt — who has already declared her candidacy — and City Councilman Keiffer Mitchell, Jr.

Matthew Crenson, professor of political science at Hopkins and a veteran of Baltimore City politics, said the race hadn't reached the point yet where candidates with lower profiles and less money — such as Clarke — could be ruled out.

"That's probably not going to happen for a little while," he said. "The primary is still ten months off, and a lot of things can happen between now and then."

Clarke agreed, adding that Dixon's substantial monetary advantage didn't mean any of her potential competitors could

be sidelined just yet.

"I wouldn't take it that way," she said. "We're at the end of a cycle here, and most contributors are maxed out."

Even as Dixon — long considered O'Malley's heir-apparent — looms over the race with the most money and greatest name-recognition, outsiders like Clarke have been mentioned as potential dark horses in a race that is bound to be unpredictable.

"Obviously there are people out there who are ready to give her some competition," Crenson said, referring to Mitchell, Pratt and City Councilman Kenneth Harris, Sr., whose fundraising efforts have been as minimal as Clarke's despite consistent speculation that he might run.

Clarke said it would take until at least next year to see the race begin to materialize within the



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.AFRO.COM](http://www.afro.com)
Clarke has been rumored as a potential for the next election.

council — specifically between Mitchell and Harris, two of its most popular members.

"I haven't seen much," she said. "I think it's early. It'll be after the first of the year that you'll see anything."

Many of the potential candidates, including Clarke, probably won't make their decisions until early next year, when renewed fundraising efforts and a clean slate for contributors are likely to provide a clearer picture of an already crowded field.



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Knapp to pursue social initiatives at GW

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remaining attuned to the culture within their respective schools.

"Recruiting some excellent deans and strong leaders is one of the most important achievements of Provost Knapp," Paula Burger, vice provost, said.

"Dr. Knapp has a great understanding of the correlates of academic quality, and he will provide excellent leadership to an institution interested in further enhancing its already impressive academic stature. As a distinguished faculty member, he has a deep personal commitment to the highest standards of academic excellence and a real appreciation for the highest quality of research and teaching," she added.

After 16 years as faculty in the Department of English at the University of California, Berkeley, Knapp began his career at Hopkins in 1994 as dean of the School of Arts and Sciences and became provost in 1996.

Also the senior vice president for academic affairs at Hopkins, Knapp has contributed largely in areas of academic development. One of Knapp's prominent accomplishments is the establishment of the Commission on Undergraduate Education along with Brody. Launched early in 2002, the program aimed to enrich the undergraduate experience at Hopkins

while maintaining the research-intensive tradition.

Knapp's passionate interest in the academic development was reflected in his endeavors to advance the University's academic vitality. Knapp took part in the establishment of the bioethics institution as well as the undergraduate program in neuroscience to keep up with the current priority on interdisciplinary work. Incorporating the Mattin Center for arts on Homewood Campus also reflected his ideal of enriching the undergrad experience.

Taking his role as provost further, Knapp also worked on integrating Hopkins' role in the community both nationally and internationally. The Urban Health Council and the Urban Health Institute were formed to help Hopkins contribute more actively in areas of urban health and emergency preparedness and response in inner-city Baltimore. The Charles Commons project combined with the Barnes & Noble bookstore was a step toward opening up Hopkins to the community, administrators said.

In addition, Knapp was also one of the key players in integrating diversity on campus. Working through Diversity Leadership Council and the University Committee on the Status of Women, he has successfully opened and

drawn from different communities.

Internationally, Knapp has focused on setting up research institutes in China and Singapore. There are also current efforts dedicated to renewing facilities in Bologna, Italy and Berlin as part of Hopkins' reach to alumni in Europe.

Knapp looks forward to shaping GW by drawing from the wealth of cultural resources in Washington.

"Just as we have worked with resources of research at Hopkins, I'd like to make use of GW's resource of Washington," Knapp explained.

His goals include contributing more extensive international as well as working with students and faculty to explore this process.

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NEWS

News in Brief

Two seniors win renowned U.K. scholarships

Hopkins seniors Sarah David and Hari Prabhakar have been awarded prestigious scholarships toward overseas post-graduate studies.

Sarah David was awarded the George J. Mitchell Scholarship, granting her a year of post-graduate study at a college or university in Ireland. David, a political science major, will use the scholarship to study ethnic conflict at Queens University in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

The Mitchell Scholarship is named after former Senator George J. Mitchell who chaired the Northern Ireland peace negotiations of the 1990s. It is awarded annually to 12 Americans under the age of 30. The scholarship allots a \$12,000 stipend for living expenses, as well as covering the costs of tuition, housing and travel.

David was chosen as a Truman

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COURTESY OF WILL KIRK
Sarah David will use the Mitchell Scholarship to study ethnic conflict in Ireland.

Scholar in 2006 and received the Boren Scholarship in 2005. She founded and ran a conference for high school students on homeland security, studied Arabic in Egypt while teaching English to Sudanese refugees and co-managed the election campaign of Maryland Senator Robert A. Zirk.

Hari Prabhakar was one of 44 Americans under the age of 25 to be awarded the Marshall Scholarship for study in Great Britain. Prabhakar, a double major in Writing Seminars and public health, will be studying health services research and systems management in his pursuit of two master's degrees at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and at

Oxford.

The Marshall Scholarship was created in 1953 in recognition of the United States' involvement in the reconstruction of Europe with the Marshall Plan. The scholarship provides for up to three years of study in an attempt to strengthen relationships between the United States and Britain. Prabhakar is the 11th Hopkins student to receive this scholarship.

Prabhakar was responsible for the creation of the Tribal India Health Foundation, which provides health services, treatment and education to tribal people in Tamil Nadu, India. He has visited the region to work on how to combat sickle cell anemia in the region. In February, Prabhakar was chosen as part of *USA Today's* College Academic First Team.

David and Prabhakar could not be reached for comment before press time.

— Marie Cushing



COURTESY OF WILL KIRK
Hari Prabhakar received the Marshall Scholarship in part for his work in India.

Jourdan to lead Advisory Council

A new chairperson has been selected to lead the Advisory Council of the Johns Hopkins Engineering Programs for Professionals (EEP). David Jourdan, currently the president of Nauticos LLC, will lead the nine-

member council in planning the development of EEP.

The Advisory Council provides "an external perspective that can open our eyes to issues that we might otherwise overlook," Allan Bjerkaas, associate dean of EPP in the Whiting school, said in a press release.

Jourdan became a member of the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory where he spent six years analyzing and utilizing data from undersea environments with the Navy Ocean Engineering Program. Previously he received a degree at the U.S. Naval Academy in engineering physics in 1976, and served on the nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine.

Nauticos LLC, originally called Meridian Sciences Inc. when Jourdan founded it with two APL scientists, has been responsible for classified government projects. The company's involvement with underwater shipwreck recovery has included the discovery of two tongs of gold in a Japanese submarine, investigation of the Titanic and the continuing search for Amelia Earhart's plane. Jourdan sold the company in 2003 and now is responsible for project development. He also created and leads the SeaWorld Foundation, an organization that supports ocean exploration.

— Marie Cushing

Contractual agreement halts hospital strike

A tentative contract settlement between the Johns Hopkins Hospital and the local chapter of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) prevented the union's announced plans to strike.

"We reached an agreement on Thursday morning, so no strike or other labor action was held," Pamela Paulk, vice president of Human Resources for the Johns Hopkins Hospital and Johns

Hopkins Health System, said.

On Dec. 1, the Service Employees International Union first announced a 10-day strike.

Although the Hopkins Student Labor Action Committee has been involved with labor-related issues at the hospital in the past, "we were not aware of the [planned] strike," according to President Niki Gupta, a senior.

A previous strike was held in 2001. Over 1,500 workers from Johns Hopkins Hospital went on strike for higher wages and increased benefits.

— Marie Cushing

USC blocks newspaper editor from position

The USC administration has overruled a student vote and actively blocked a student from assuming his role as editor-in-chief in *The Daily Trojan*.

Senior journalism major Zach Fox was forced to resign due to his repeated attempts to push for the paper's independence from the university.

Michael L. Jackson, vice president for student affairs, disallowed Fox from returning to his position on the premise that the student was neglecting his duties as editor and was spending time reconsidering the way the paper should be run. While Jackson does not oppose some restructuring of the *Trojan*, he more firmly believes that Fox should focus on overseeing the daily production of the paper.

Senior Jeremy Beecher was elected to replace Fox. This decision was approved by the administration even though he supports Fox's decision.

The university continues to fund *The Daily Trojan*. Yet students who staff the paper continue to contend that the paper has not only no knowledge of the amount of money in their budget, they have also no part in deciding how the money is spent. Paper autonomy, they believe, would help to enhance the overall quality of the paper.

Jackson has formed a committee to evaluate Fox's proposal and would be expected to make appropriate adjustments by the end of the semester. Fox continues to write and edit for the *Trojan*.

— Cindy Chen



COURTESY OF JHU GAZETTE

JHMI was almost host to a strike before worker contract negotiations occurred.

ERRATA

In the Nov. 30 issue, the article "City ranked third most dangerous in nation," incorrectly cited a 2004 version of the Morgan Quitno Group's study that had not been updated. The current 2006 ranking, which is accessible on the group's website, placed Baltimore as the second most dangerous city among the 32 cities ranked with populations over 500,000. The city was ranked the 12th most dangerous out of the 324 metropolitan areas surveyed.

The News-Letter regrets these errors.

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NEWS

Students memorialize victims of Bhopal

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claimed several signs posted in front of the memorial, which consisted of drinking cups that spelled out the number 20,000.

Signs claiming "One person dies every day from injuries they sustained from the gas leak 20 years ago in Bhopal" and "50,000 people are too sick to work" surrounded the memorial itself.

Rao said that she has received mixed reactions from the student body.

"A lot of people hadn't heard of it before — it attracted their attention," Rao said. Others were less moved, going so far as to write it off completely in comparison to other disasters such as Chernobyl.

Union Carbide Corporation, who owned just over 50 percent of the pesticide factory in Bhopal, was held responsible for the release of the poisonous gas. It was determined that a number of security redundancy failures led to the chemical reaction that forced the release of methyl isocyanate.

The student organizers are a part of a larger movement nationwide, prompted in part by the organization that sponsored the memorial, the Association for India's Development, which supports grassroots development



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER

The students who held the memorial claim that 20,000 Bhopal residents are still drinking contaminated water, 22 years later.

projects in India.

"There's a huge 'students for Bhopal' movement nationwide; it's accomplished a lot," Rao claimed. She added that several American universities do not allow Dow, the company that bought out Union Carbide in 1999, to have any presence on their campuses.

In 1989 Union Carbide paid \$470 million in damages, but the Indian government held the money until recently. In 2004, the Indian government released \$330 million, the portion that they had not already spent, to be split among the 578,000 injured victims.

Rao and other organizers are aiming to bring light to the issue of corporate responsibility in this disaster and have expressed hope that their efforts make students more conscious of this issue worldwide. Rao felt it was important for India to have the jobs that the pesticide plant created, but she wants to draw attention to the critical decision that Union Carbide made with the

placement of the factory, which was situated in central Bhopal. Although the location lent itself to easy access for workers, thus helping remediate the challenges of transportation in the developing nation, Rao said was irresponsible for them to bring these hazardous chemicals into a place where people live.

"That's where corporate responsibility comes in: If you're building a plant somewhere else [other than the United States] you should still consider the health of the population around it," she said.

"We want people to realize the importance of history: Even though it was a chain of industrial safety failures, there were pre-emptive things they could have done to warn the population," she added.

Rao suggested that Union Carbide could have given basic health and safety suggestions to the people of Bhopal such as protecting their lungs by covering their faces with a wet cloth.

"But no one knew," she added.

The student organization held a Bhopal awareness week last semester. Although it was met with positive reactions, it was not well attended. Rao suggested that the challenge this presented reflects the problem itself.

"It happened in a different country, so we can easily ignore it," she said.

This time they organized the memorial so that it would not be ignored.

"It's easy to walk by things, so we wanted to do something on a bigger scale; something that you couldn't as easily ignore," Rao added.

The estimated death toll from the initial leak is often cited at 3,000. A significant number of Bhopal residents died later from related illnesses and injuries. The signs posted at the memorial site 22,000 total deaths. The BBC claims at least 18,000 were killed as a direct result of the gas leak, and Greenpeace suggests that 20,000 is a conservative estimate for these deaths.

On Dec. 3, 2004, a man was interviewed by the BBC, falsely claiming to be a Dow employee. He said that Dow had agreed to clean up the site and compensate the victims.

Early applicant pool remains competitive

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

Hopkins early decision.

"That is on the higher end of the spectrum, we try to stay in the thirty to 40 percent, but the overall quality of the applicant pool determines the percentage. The early decision group is very, very strong this year with regards to academics," Latting explained.

The early decision policy has been discussed and evaluated with leading alumnae and within the administration and there is a general agreement that "for now it works for the campus and it is a good policy."

The admissions department is careful to avoid any inequities that have been debated to bias the early decision process and thus led such institutions as Harvard and Princeton to abolish such policies.

"The early decision approach here at Hopkins is built on honor and trust for the applicants, it is obvious that this institution is their first choice. Accepted early decision applicants most often do decide to matriculate. And we've found that this applicant pool is usually the most diverse," Latting said on the early decision policy at Hopkins.

Latting felt that a large contributing factor for Harvard and Princeton abolishing the early decision option was that the institutions felt that their early decision pool did not accurately reflect the rest of their applicant pool as far as quality and diversity are concerned.

According to administration, the expected final class population is 1,200. The target number

will not be finalized until January but Latting does not anticipate it will differ greatly from the current class number size of 1,207.

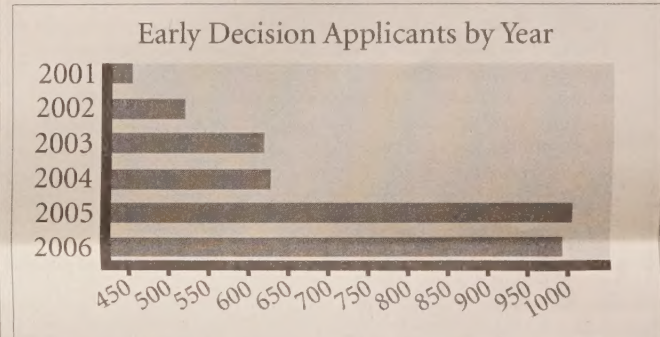
Latting felt that Hopkins' lower rank of 16 in the annual *US News* National Universities Ranking had minimal effect on the number and quality of applicants.

The slightly lower ranking does not affect the overall prestige and reputation that this University holds. The rankings are used by most prospective students to define a set of institutions, as long as we are still esteemed to be among the very best, which are reflected accurately in our admissions pool, the Admissions Department does not foresee any future problems with recruitment.

Latting said that the typical applicant does not evaluate Hopkins by its rankings alone.

"The majority of the applicants take tours of the campus, they see the improvements being made, the great resources, and those are the deciding factors for most prospective students. Our campus plays a positive role in the recruitment process," he said.

"The community also benefits greatly from the improvement on campus and the community members play a large role in the recruitment process. Prospective students will frequently contact members from their high school who currently attend Hopkins. The gradual improvement of the quality of life here has affected the experience as a student here," he added.



MATT HANSEN/NEWS-LETTER

The number of early Hopkins applicants has been on the rise over the past years.

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Alumni Association begins liaison program

By ERIN YANG

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The Alumni Association has newly launched a liaison program where the committee members serve as liaisons to fund various student projects. The Student Services Grant Committee, however, is facing some difficulties in funding summer and fall grant applications from student groups.

According to administration, the problem has been two-fold, with student groups applying to incorrect venues within the association and also a lack of funding.

Many student groups have applied but have received none or insufficient funds for their activities and events.

The program aims to provide funding opportunities to student groups, organizations and programs to enhance the overall student experiences at Hopkins.

It supports activities, events and programs that benefit and involve students from all university divisions and especially encourage programs that foster multi-divisional and cross-divisional participation.

Janice Webber, chairperson of the Student Services Grant Committee, expressed at an executive committee meeting in June that one of the greatest ongoing problems has been funding students groups or projects for a limited number of cycles. Yet, it is reasonable to equally share the opportunity with groups that have not received any grants so far.

Webber suggested that the Alumni Council should reserve funds to assist certain divisions with special circumstances like Peabody. Treasure Ellen Oppen-

heimer responded that the student committee has the freedom to make decisions about the specific allocation of the funding for special requests that do not fit within the mission of the committee.

Requesting for funding is generally a long and tedious process; it involves the completion of a detailed application, which includes an itemized budget, sources for additional funding, requests for start-up funds for new initiatives, cross-divisional participation and specific goals. The specific requirements for qualification must be met, and the committee

members must review all post-event reports for previous grant recipients.

This is simply a way to ensure the quality of the proper handling of funding.

Although a selective process, many students have taken the initiative

to request funds for projects in their corresponding groups such as Hopkins Olympic Taekwondo for its national collegiate competition at Texas A&M University and Mini Baja Design Team for creation of an off-road vehicle to participate in competition sponsored by American Society of Mechanical Engineers against MIT and Harvard.

Hopkins Eisenhower Symposium, Spring Fair, Hopkins Cycling, Pre-Orientation Outdoor Pursuits, Literary Magazines, OASIS and many more — this year's approved request including funding for a Chinese lion head and drum for a cultural activity and a pre-Orientation activity that teaches mentoring and leadership skills.

"The liaison program has

its own shortcoming since the success is dependent on the student-alumni, or Alumni-Association staff, connection. It in fact requires plenty individual efforts, where correct information, phone numbers, e-mail addresses and prompted responses are required," Webber said.

"However, in most of the other cases, personal meetings transpired between the alumni representatives and student project leaders or e-mails and telephone calls were exchanged. The connection was extremely successful. So, if you want the money, taking a few trips and making some real conversations with the staff perhaps will give a plus on your funding applications," she added.

Administrators commented that another problem has been that several requests from student groups and organizations have simply been addressed to inappropriate venues within the Alumni Associations.

"This might slow down the processing time, reduce the likelihood of funding, and may also prevent the funding from meeting specific deadlines for events and programs. Programs such as health education for neighborhood children, or that involves a community, should be directed to the Community Service Committee; Individuals and projects for credit are not eligible for funding. Careful examination of the guidelines and attention to detail when completing the application will enhance the probability of funding," Webber said.

At the Executive Committee meeting, Oppenheimer did not include increasing allocation for the Grant Committee — only if individual divisional requests exceed the amount allocated to Student Programs, the Student Program Committee can ask for additional funding. Lack of funding could develop into a long-term problem where more students come to apply for funding for their respective groups and organizations.

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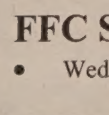


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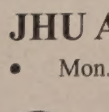
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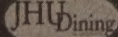
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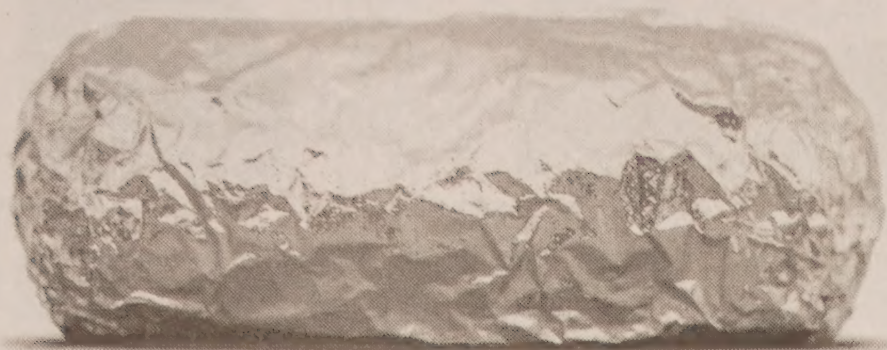


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Happy Holidays from
 William, Xiao-bo and
 the *News-Letter* staff

THE JOHNS HOPKINS
NEWS-LETTER
PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

EDITORIAL

Welcome additions

The decision to create separate schools of business and education at Hopkins is a tremendous and positive step for the University. Two significant holes in the institution will soon be plugged and there is little doubt that, in due time, both programs will emerge as leaders in their respective fields. Our thanks go out to William Polk Carey, whose donation has made this addition possible.

Initial reports suggest that the Carey School of Business is going to be a standout in the world of business education. The University has made the right choice by requiring that students studying in the business program earn undergraduate degrees in a field other than business.

Rather than producing graduates who know only business — as is the case at other five-year BA/MBA programs that offer a business major — the school will instill an in-depth business education within a liberal arts context. By doing so, the school will be training MBAs who are specialists in a variety of other fields.

We hope that the Carey School will open its doors in a timely fashion. Allowing current sophomores and freshmen to take advantage of its offerings seems a worthy goal.

We also hope that, operating in conjunction with the Hopkins hospital system, the Carey School will direct significant effort toward improving this country's inadequate health services industry, perhaps by encouraging public health majors to take advantage of the under-

graduate program. Far from simply producing a new generation of millionaires, the Carey School will have the opportunity to make a positive difference in society at large. Of course, those millionaires won't hurt either — particularly when it comes time to seek alumni donations.

The establishment of a school of education also comes to our great surprise and delight. Less is known about that new program's plan, but we are confident that it will soon be producing fine educators and important research. A great deal of excellent scholarship on the subject of education already occurs in Hopkins' humanities and social sciences departments and the presence of a school dedicated to the field cannot help but enhance their endeavors.

However, while a Hopkins school of education will surely perform vital research, it must also be tasked with infusing the ailing schools of Baltimore City with capable professionals. Initiative aimed specifically at improving Baltimore City public schools should be a central focus of the school.

We also recommend that the school offer teaching certificate programs for Hopkins undergraduates so that they can accept teaching jobs upon graduation. There is no question that many Hopkins students will register.

With these new schools, Hopkins' standing as an institution will rise and its academic mission will be substantially furthered. Today, the future of the University looks a bit brighter.

Congratulations Dr. Knapp

The *News-Letter* would like to congratulate Provost Steven Knapp on becoming the next president of the George Washington University.

The presidency of an academic institution is a role worthy of only the most capable scholar/administrators — a difficult hybrid to find — and Knapp is certainly one such person. In his years as provost, he has shown tremendous passion for the mission of the University and been a tireless force for improvement.

Knapp's appointment is as much an achievement for the University as it is for him. As President Brody noted in his announcement of Knapp's departure, this is the second time in two years a top administrator at Hopkins has been asked by a peer institution to become its president.

It certainly reflects well on our school when our peers show such respect for the individuals responsible for our success

But now the University must find someone to replace Knapp. And, although some obvious candidates might immediately come to mind, the administration should consider not only the people

it wants to install, but what statement it wants to make in the process.

Knapp, as very few students probably know, is a distinguished humanist and a scholar of 18th and 19th century English literature. His commentary on literary theory has had substantial influence on the modern academic discipline, and as such has been incorporated into the venerable *Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism*.

The administrators who head the search for Knapp's successor should take heed of this legacy, especially because so many of the highest remaining administrators are scientists and doctors by trade. Promoting Hopkins as a leader in the humanities would be a goal well served by installing a No. 2 who has trained in and contributed to one of its fields.

Knapp's appointment is a great accomplishment and we wish him well in his future endeavors. While we bid Knapp farewell we look forward to our own prospects in the hope that our new provost will be as dedicated to the advancement of Johns Hopkins as he had been.

Grieving for Forgione

The tragic death of Nancy Forgione, a much-loved art history professor, comes at a time of year when many of us are looking to the end of a semester or to returning home, toward family and reunions. At this difficult time, we offer our condolences to Forgione's family, friends, colleagues and many devoted students. Her loss is a shocking blow to the entire Hopkins campus, reminding us once again, in the worst possible way, the necessity of coming together as a community.

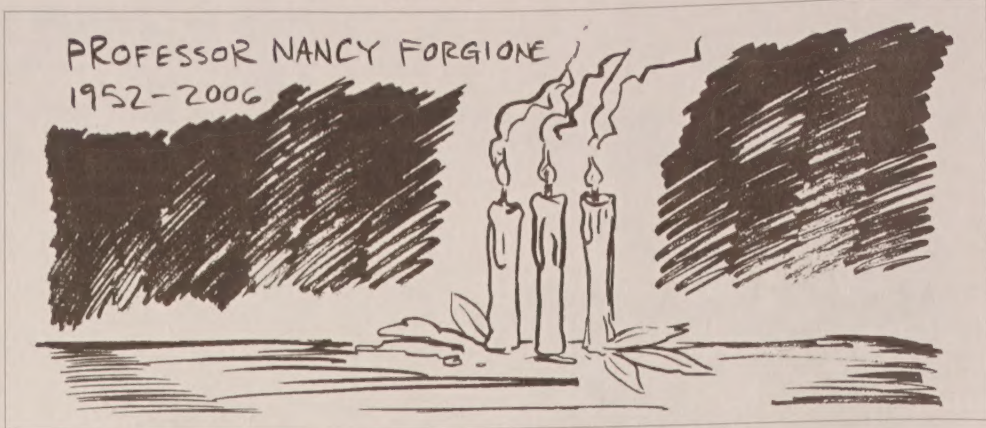
Any students who have taken her undergraduate courses on European art know Forgione to be a passionate scholar and committed teacher, who struck a balance between engagement in the classroom and scholarly work. She was, of course, a wonderful academic, with critical work on the likes of Edouard Vuillard. In her popular "Introduction to the History of Art" course, she never shied away from expressing personal excitement about an abstract expressionist painting or a particularly beautiful print. She was a quiet instructor with the ability to inspire, and will be strongly missed for her dedication to helping individual stu-

dents grasp the material, however obscure, in whatever way she could.

Forgione is also a shining example of someone who was intellectually nurtured by the University and returned to the campus to pay it back tenfold. She received her bachelor's and doctorate degrees at Hopkins, in humanistic studies and art history respectively, and her husband is also an alumnus. She was an indispensable part of the Hopkins community — proof that the true success of an academic institution lies in the individuals who are fostered there. She was a symbol of the importance of Gilman Hall, of Hopkins humanities, of the infrequently visited collections of cultural rarities and other treasures that underline the humanistic face of the University.

At no other time is the Hopkins community more important than one of tragedy. We must support each other — our fellow students and our professors — in honoring the memory of an invaluable teacher and scholar, as much for her character and commitment to this very community as for her intellectual contributions. We are all lesser for her absence.

William Parschalk



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Incorrect city crime statistics

In your issue dated Nov. 30, you reported on results of a survey by the *Morgan Quitno Press* that named Baltimore the third most dangerous large city in the nation. You also commented on the survey's results in an editorial and in a cartoon. You described that survey as "recent."

However, the particular survey you cited is two years old. It was Morgan Quitno's 11th annual survey of its kind, which was released by that group in 2004.

Morgan Quitno has released two such reports since then; the most recent being the 13th annual report from November 2006. In the new survey, Baltimore is ranked as the second most dangerous large city in the nation. All of the other results you cited from the 2004 report also vary somewhat in the new version.

Fact-checking the actual recent Morgan Quitno survey should have been as simple as visiting the group's Web site — a summary of their 2006 report is freely available there. Perhaps your citing of an old report as news may have been a simple mistake. But in your business, simplicity should be no defense for misrepresentation.

Preston Moon

Editor's note: Please see this issue's errata on Page A3.

Problem endemic at fraternities

The young men of Sigma Chi have probably not given it much thought, but the truth is that col-

lege fraternities on the whole represent the privilege that comes with whiteness/class, straightness and maleness. Fraternities commonly encourage their members to participate in racist, sexist or homophobic acts and attitudes of dominance and exclusion. And has not the ruling class in this country long been made up of their graduates? Fraternities are part of a tradition that universities benefit from and are not going to relinquish anytime soon.

Such a select group naturally tends to feel victimized when confronted.

Outrage! How can role models in training be oppressive? After all, they have helped the underprivileged and done philanthropic works! Justin Park related in the *News-Letter* that his possessions were stolen shortly before the fraternity Halloween fiasco. And, it appears that he and his "brothers" reacted to this unfortunate incident by scapegoating black people and making crude assumptions about Baltimore City.

There may be a ray of hope here, however! Minds can self-examine and also take a close, critical look at the system that supports them — and also hypocritically punishes them! Best and truest individual selves can reach out for experiences that

do not reflect the status quo, but which help to renounce privilege, separateness and indifference.

Sue Johnson

Park punishment is unfair

Hopkins reacted with no perspective in the Justin Park fiasco. We all suffer from lack of judgment and insensitivity at times. We use this as a learning experience, and then move on. Park could have been asked to do a sensitivity class or community service. That would have been a more than an adequate response, by Hopkins, to Park's momentary lack of judgment.

Hopkins is the largest employer of minorities in the State of Maryland. They have nothing of which to be ashamed. Hopkins is the economic engine of Baltimore City. The NAACP should be more forthcoming in the battles in which they choose to engage. The Justin Park fiasco should not have been on their radar screen.

I support an immediate hearing for Justin Park and his reinstatement to the University.

Marcia Kargon

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The *Johns Hopkins News-Letter* welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 250 words. Letters must be delivered to the Gatehouse by Tuesday at 7 p.m. or emailed to News.Letter@jhu.edu for inclusion in that Thursday's issue. All letters received become property of the *News-Letter* and can not be returned. The *News-Letter* reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and clarity. Letters must include the name, address and telephone number of the author. Only one author's name may be included. Groups, teams and other organizations may not submit letters, only individuals. The *News-Letter* reserves the right to limit the number of letters printed.

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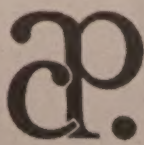
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Vijay Phulwani

JHU business school has great potential



MATT HANSEN/NEWS-LETTER

I wish we had a divinity school. A doctorate of theology from Hopkins would be, as far as I am concerned, a surreal and wonderful thing. If I ever wind up with several gazillion undeserved dollars, I promise to endow one. In the meantime (read: reality), the University has just received a \$50 million gift to create schools for business and education. They're not theology, but these schools will do a lot of good for Hopkins and for Baltimore.

That is, of course, if they can get going effectively and last in two fairly crowded educational fields. In the past, Hopkins has had a few bad experiences with interesting schools and programs going under. In 1928 we started a Law Institute for the purpose of studying the effects and effectiveness of laws from a social sciences perspective, specifically those of economics and sociology. It was an innovative idea, but then the Depression happened and funding dried up, so a few years later it closed down.

Then there was our first school of international relations, the Page School, located right here at Homewood. The Page School started in 1938, and was headed by Owen Lattimore, who was a big name in Central and East Asian studies at the time. However, in 1950 he was accused by Senator McCarthy of being a pinko, and that was all she wrote. This is also why Hopkins acquired the School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, D.C. that same year.

Conscientious of these past failures, the University has given some thought to the question of how to make sure these new schools succeed. This is especially important when starting a business school, a field where networking and prestige are such overriding concerns. According to an article in *Business Week*, Hopkins intends to develop the new school by focusing on two things. First, it will be geared toward students coming directly out of college instead of those with several years of work experience, as most business schools currently do. Second, we will be leveraging Hop-

kins' medical primacy. As *Business Week* notes, many business schools are trying to develop programs geared specifically toward health care issues. Even if our MBA is not yet established, a Hopkins degree will still mean a lot in this field.

This is a good approach, but we should not lose sight of some other important goals as well. A major benefit of these expansions should be to cultivate Hopkins' profile as a school that specializes in a lot more than medicine. These aspects of the University deserve every bit of the attention they are given; Hopkins isn't the best hospital in the world for nothing. However, we are also exceptional in a number of other fields including physics, political theory, Near Eastern studies and English. One of the main benefits of having schools for business and education would be to show that

Hopkins does a lot more than just medicine. Since our most famous alumnus today is Michael Bloomberg, this should already be apparent, but the stereotype remains, and the school must continue to work toward changing it.

I have high hopes that these programs will be beneficial to both Hopkins and the city of Baltimore. In order to compete nationally, and particularly in the crowded east coast, Baltimore needs fixed assets to attract businesses. The Inner Harbor is still the most important of these, but after that Hopkins is probably the number one reason for businesses and professionals to go to Baltimore. A Hopkins business school will provide a supply of homegrown entrepreneurs and managers to help develop commerce in the city. Also, an education school will increase Hopkins' involvement in Balti-

more, and bring more socially conscious people into the University system.

Improving Baltimore will improve Hopkins as well. One need only consider how the urban renaissance in New York has turned NYU into one of the hottest schools in the nation to realize how vital a University's hometown can be. As long as Baltimore is viewed primarily as the city where *The Wire* and *Homicide* were filmed, it will continue to limit the appeal of Hopkins for legions of potential students. Baltimore and Hopkins are mutually dependent, and schools for business and education will be beneficial to both.

Plus, business schools provide lots of rich alumni. If I don't strike it rich, hopefully we can convince them to endow the divinity school.

—Vijay Phulwani is a senior political science and ancient law major from Johnstown, Pa.

Zach Goodman

Rocking out after four years and a lot of cash

After a \$160,000 education, I'm ready to hinge my future to a \$250 drum set. I've always loved music. I started playing the saxophone when I was 10, and I listen to music incessantly. The play button on my iPod is stained and worn out. I probably know most or all of the words to over 1,000 songs, and (much to the dismay of friends and family) I sing them frequently with little provocation. Lately I've been listening to a lot of metal, which means I'm in danger of losing my voice on long, solo car trips.

But I'm really in trouble when it comes to drumming. For as long as I can remember, I have drummed on any available hard surface whenever I found myself in a state of semi-conscious distraction — that is to say, frequently. People have been bothered, classes have been disrupted, cars have come close to spinning out of control.

My mom knew this about me, and three years ago she made both the best and worst decision of my life. For Hanukkah, she bought me a student drum kit. The toms sounded like hitting cardboard boxes and the cymbals like throwing rocks at a tin roof, but that was more than enough to hook me.

During the summer of 2005, I started bringing the rock with my friend Alex, a guitarist, and I was beyond saving. We've since brought on two more friends, Nick and Tim. I upgraded to a quality kit and a band, Mandarin Hand, was born. The amateur live recordings on our *MySpace* page (<http://www.myspace.com/mandarin-hand> — visit and boost our numbers) have over 2,300 plays, and this winter break, we hope to lay down some of our 10-song catalogue in a professional studio.

After all this education, music has become everything I want to do. It's terrifying. I'm constantly questioning my conviction. Do I really think I can do this for a living? Are we good enough? Am I just foolishly following a teenager's dream of rock stardom?

Sort of, hopefully and, probably. I know this is stupid. I know the odds are stacked wildly against me. But then I sit behind my drums for band practice, experience the most indescribable rush of pride, satisfaction and sheer kid-on-Christmas-morning glee over what we're creating and realize that I don't care about the odds.

My whole life has been spent in preparation for tomorrow's success. I had to get good grades in middle school so I could get into a good prep school, I had to get good grades at prep school to get into a good college, and now I have to get good grades to graduate and get a good job. And I'm sure I'm not alone. I hear people all around me talking about living in the library and pulling all-nighters to study for finals. We're sacrificing personal health and enjoyment of life for some nebulous promise of what's to come.

To what end? I'm not saying we shouldn't go to college and try hard. I'm saying that at some point, we got so focused on looking ahead that we no longer see what's around us. There was once a time when we weren't expected to constantly fill our schedules with resume-padding activities and it wasn't career suicide to go a minute without having one foot in the business world with an internship that will work us to death for no money.

In music, I found something I truly love, a source of absolute and unabashed joy. So I'm going after it. The period just after college is a rare moment of relative freedom. We may never again be so divorced from responsibility and the expectations of others. It's a perfect time to follow dreams.

I'm scared, though. I'm scared of the failure that seems 99 percent likely, scared of falling back on the plan B that is currently a haze at best and scared of diving headlong into the uncharted waters of the real world with nothing but a few songs on a CD.

Oh, and an expensive diploma. I guess I have a little bit to fall back on. I'll probably also need a day job of some kind, since I immediately will inherit thousands of dollars in loan debt. But I want to give myself a year of full-time hours as a musician. And I hope other people take a year, too. Travel, act, write, sculpt, make an enormous rubber band ball. I hope in 50 years when we're all soulless corporate lawyers, we can say that we had a year where we went for it.

—Zach Goodman is the News-Letter Sports editor. He is a senior international studies and Writing Seminars major from Warren, N.J.

The folly of the draft

By JONATHAN SCHWITZER

The incoming chairman of the powerful Ways and Means Committee, Rep. Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.), has announced plans to introduce legislation to reinstate the military draft when the Democrats take over the House of Representatives in January. Rangel claims that a draft is needed to boost U.S. troop levels and make military service representative of a broader section of the population. He argues that it is unfair that the war is being fought by soldiers who disproportionately come from low-income and minority families. I disagree.

Despite Rangel's contention, it should be emphasized that no one is forced to volunteer for the military. Therefore, even if a large portion of the soldiers serving in the military come from low-income and minority areas, it is not unfair. Additionally, not all soldiers serve in the military for economic reasons. Many join because they are patriotic and

seek to defend their country. This was especially true after 9/11.

Military service actually benefits minorities. It is a tool of social advancement through its financial and educational benefits. Military service is also valuable in that it provides on-the-job and technical training. One of the reasons that there is an economic gap between racial groups is that whites attend college in greater numbers than minorities. Those who serve in the military can receive a free college education. Thus, if more members of minority groups enlisted in the military, class differences between racial groups would decrease. What Rangel calls a "burden" might better be described as an opportunity.

If a draft were reinstated, it would inhibit the success of the military and end up being catastrophic. The U.S. military relies on skill and quality rather than sheer quantity. The current all-volunteer force is effective. Additionally, it would be unwise to force those who do not wish to fight to join the military. A draft will lead to anti-American sentiment and unpatriotic behavior among those who oppose the draft or the war as it did dur-

ing the Vietnam conflict. The draft will divide the nation — again, see Vietnam — and the last thing the United States needs during a time of war is a people divided. A nation must be united during war as this country was during WWII. To be otherwise lessens morale.

Thankfully, reinstatement of the draft is highly unlikely. "There isn't a chance in the world that the draft will be brought back," former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld told Congress in June 2005. Opinion polls repeatedly show that as many as 7 in 10 Americans oppose reinstatement of the draft.

The issues of women and gays in the military may serve as an even greater deterrent to reinstatement. Even if the draft were to solve the military's perceived shortage of soldiers, politicians are loath to consider the highly charged question of whether to draft women in the same numbers as they would men.

The principle of equality among the sexes would seem to demand equality in the draft as well, yet most would be horrified by the idea of sending the mothers of our nation into combat. Additionally, while Clinton temporarily

resolved the issue of gays in the military with his "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, if the draft were reinstated, the question remains: Will gays be drafted as well?

This issue would certainly haunt any military draft legislation. While many oppose gays being drafted out of moral concern of forcing our nation's men to serve with gays, others would view it as unfair for gays not to have to bear the "burden" of serving in the army because of their sexual orientation. Additionally, given the increasing acceptance of homosexuality, in the case of a draft, many straight males would claim to be gay to avoid service. Draft dodging would take on a new meaning: Rather than fleeing to our Canadian allies, all draft dodgers would have to do is claim to be homosexual to avoid military service.

Rangel's desire to reinstate the draft so that all people can serve in the military will hurt both minorities and the nation and is shortsighted. The draft is not without potentially disastrous consequences, a fact that our legislators ought to remember.

Simon Waxman

Taking it one cliché at a time

During a recent press conference following his team's loss to the Indianapolis Colts, New England Patriots coach Bill Belichick was asked to comment on some of the adjustments the team made in the second half. His response: "We did some things well. There were some other things that could have been better. We just have to do a better job. We have to be more consistent. We have to coach better. We have to play better. We just have to do a better job, that's all."

That's trenchant analysis right there. Anyone who pays attention to professional sports is no doubt familiar with the blithering clichés of athletes and their coaches. The other guys wanted it more and gave it 110 percent and came to win and dominated every facet of the game — athlete-speak is so sanitized of content it practically gleams with a chemical sheen.

It's bad enough that one might wonder why sportswriters continue to ask the questions at all. Perhaps it's a plot for

revenge on the part, collectively, of those who spent so many recesses on the sideline. Now, they have the opportunity to show the world just how little occurs between the ears of some pituitary galoot.

But the most distressing aspect of the pro athlete's formulaic speech isn't its ineloquence but rather its uniformity. It would seem that nearly every living athlete and most coaches, when placed before a microphone, suddenly cannot muster even a granule of personality. Instead they resort to hackneyed foolishness of the most stultifying sort. Of course a win is a win.

Athletes weren't always so uncreative. In fact, several have had a substantial impact on the American lexicon. Yogi Berra, of course, is famous for his colorful linguistic contortions, non sequiturs and malapropisms.

Occasionally, he achieved a kind of profundity with his gab, as when he remarked following a dinner at the White House, "It was hard to have a conversation with anyone; there were so many people talking." And who could deny

the wisdom behind a line like, "If the world were perfect, it wouldn't be."

Muhammad Ali, too, made a significant contribution to the way we talk. *Ali Rap*, a new biography edited by George Lois, demonstrates the debt that many popular hip-hop artists owe to the man who may have unintentionally sired one of today's most popular musical forms.

But Ali wasn't just about snazzy rhymes; he also turned his singular tongue on a society and political system that sorely needed a heavyweight champ to knock it in the gut. In 1969, following his refusal to fight in Vietnam, he remarked, "They're all afraid of me because I speak the truth that can set men free."

Ali, perhaps more than any athlete, used his role as a public figure to transcend the game he played. But while other sportsmen may not have attempted the kind of far-reaching commentary of The Greatest, they at least had more to say than "we gave it our best shot."

Willie Mays, the star outfielder for the Giants once said, "Baseball is a game,

yes. It is also a business. But what it is most truly is disguised combat. For all its gentility, its almost leisurely pace, baseball is violence under wraps." Can you imagine one of today's steroid-infused stars providing such critique?

Regardless of whether one agrees with Mays, he at least held an individual perspective, which is impossible when speech is reduced to recycled gestures.

I'm not suggesting that athletes ought to be scholars as well, but when the heroes of our society fail to articulate even the most basic of human thought, their shortcomings tend to trickle down into society at large. Along with our actors and musicians, the idols of American popular culture, with rare exceptions, seem to have increasingly less to say.

But I suppose I ought not expect much of our athletes. After all, they're only slightly lesser communicators than the president.

—Simon Waxman is the News-Letter Opinions editor. He is a senior international studies major from Newton, Mass.

Jonathan Schwitzer is a freshman political science major from Fair Lawn, N.J.

SCIENCE

Access to mental health care limited despite advances

By **PRIYA SUNKARA**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

This article is the second in a three-part feature on mental illness. The final article, to appear after winter break, will discuss the challenges of accessing mental health treatment. The series is being presented by Active Minds @ JHU, a group that aims to raise awareness and provide information on campus about mental health issues, encourage people to seek help as soon as it is needed and help reduce the stigma associated with mental illness.

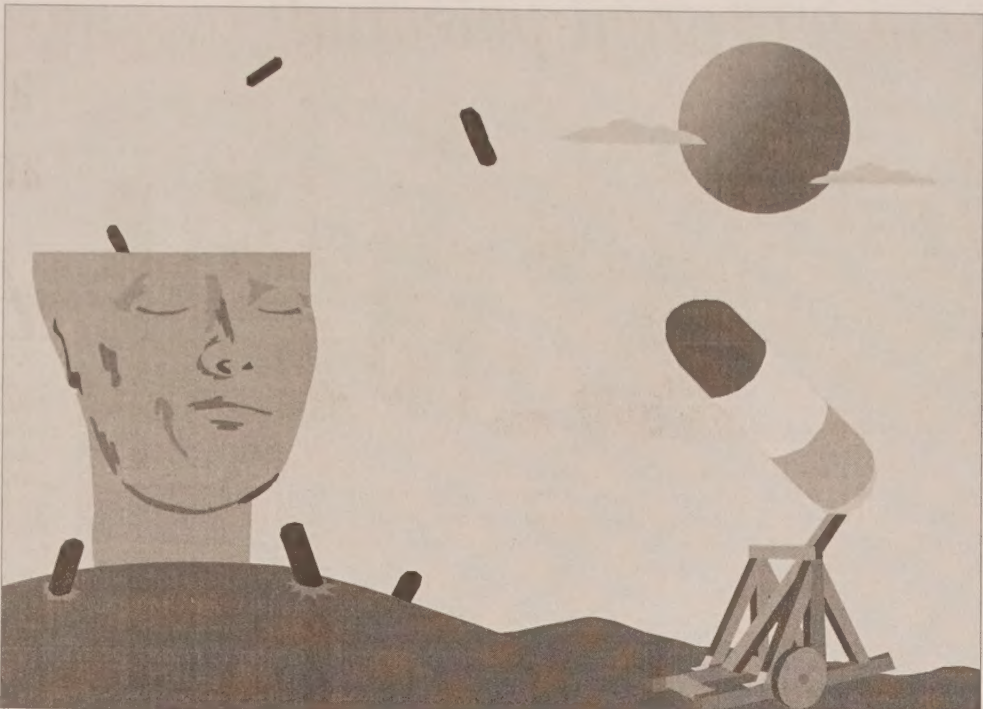
New advances in medicine and science are constantly reshaping the public policy of mental health. Over the last few years, organizations ranging from the federal government to universities to patient advocacy groups have rolled out new plans to help people with mental illnesses lead normal, productive lives.

One of the greatest benefits of the so-called demystification of the brain has been the direction of attention to mental health concerns. Unfortunately, despite recent scientific progress, there remains a significant discrepancy between our current societal practices of mental health care and the ideal many hopes and ideals of the above-mentioned groups.

Simply put, in an ideal system, mental illness would be recognized without bias and treated in a timely and affordable manner.

College campuses provide a unique microcosm for the easily available assessment and treatment of mental illnesses.

Mental illness encompasses a broad range of diseases and an even greater array of treatments. As our understanding of mental illnesses improves, this range of options will only grow larger



MATT HANSEN/NEWS-LETTER

and more confusing to navigate.

While the use of classic behavioral therapy and counseling is still quite pervasive, the mental health field is largely heading toward the use of pharmaceutical methods. The discovery of neural mechanisms that underlie disorders such as depression has allowed for the creation of medicines that can deliver specific chemicals to the brain and guide the patient toward recovery, often in concert with more conventional psychotherapy.

In addition, new strides in the field of genetics have been able to link the presence of certain diseases to family lineages. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, "Genetics and

neuroscience together are giving us the tools for predicting risk, validating diagnosis, and identifying targets for new, more effective treatments."

While the majority of mental illnesses are mild and may not require professional intervention, people with more serious cases tend to delay treatment, in large part because there are few mechanisms in place to routinely assess mental health.

According to a recent Harvard study, the median delay for the treatment of most mental illnesses was about 10 years. For social phobia and separation anxiety in particular, the delay was 20 to 23 years and, for mood disorders, six to eight years. In addition, almost half of all cases of substance abuse and impulse control disorders were never treated.

Scientific efficacy is not enough when it comes to mental

health treatment: Even when new treatments are adequate, their administration is often stunted by a variety of systemic factors. When victims do seek help they often find themselves in the care of a fragmented system.

Only about one-third of treatments currently on the market pass federal guidelines for accessible care. Financial restraints are a common source of hardship, especially because insurance companies have been reluctant to provide for the care of mental health patients.

Hopkins students are often able to circumvent these obstacles. The Counseling Center is free of charge and readily accessible for all undergraduates on campus. The center provides a range of treatment options including psychiatrists, clinical psychologists and peer support groups.

According to its annual report, in the past year the Counseling Center has provided individual counseling to 1,083 clients. This number signified an 18.2 percent increase in attendance from the previous year.

About 65 percent of students who attend the counseling center report significant improvement in their overall condition. One student, a junior actively involved in the Alpha Phi sorority, described the center as "a comforting and safe environment welcoming to all students."

But for many Americans with mental illness, pervasive stigmas and inadequate systems of care are daunting. Families, workplaces and schools often seem insensitive to the needs of these individuals. But smaller organizations like the Hopkins Counseling Center provide hope for improvement on a larger scale.

The type of success achieved by the Hopkins Counseling Center would require the cooperation of medical and public policy groups. However, the greatest impediment remains public interest. The facilitation changes requires a society willing to implement them in a system that is lacking in many ways.

Rare congenital illness aided by blood pressure medication

By **JONATHAN PAN**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

A commonly used blood pressure medicine may be able to prevent the fatal effects of Marfan syndrome, a rare congenital illness. According to Hopkins researchers.

Losartan has been prescribed for years to treat high blood pressure, but preliminary testing in children with Marfan syndrome shows the drug can do much more. According to researchers, losartan prevented life-threatening effects of the disease in all the children that were tested.

"I truly believe that [losartan] will profoundly change people with Marfan syndrome for the better" Harry Dietz, professor of genetics and pediatrics and senior author on the study, said.

The National Marfan Foundation estimates that more than 30,000 Americans have Marfan syndrome, which is caused by a defect in the tissue responsible for the structure and strength of blood vessels and organs. The distinguishing characteristics of the disease are unusually long legs, arms and fingers.

Abraham Lincoln is thought to have had Marfan syndrome because he was 6 feet 4 inches tall when the average height was 5 feet 6 inches, but Lincoln was no taller than the average man when sitting. Lincoln was also said to have large spidery hands, another characteristic symptom of Marfan syndrome.

The most serious symptom of the disease is the widening of the aorta which causes vessel walls to weaken and eventually burst, leading to death.

Originally, scientists believed that Marfan syndrome was

caused by problems in tissue architecture. The focus was on elastin, a compound that gives tissue its elasticity.

However, further research revealed that the culprit was not elastin but an active protein more abundant in the cells of people with Marfan syndrome, according to Hopkins scientists. A growth factor called TGF-beta is one of several proteins that regulates the development of bones, muscles and blood vessels. This protein is unusually active in Marfan syndrome.

In the study, 10 mice were injected with neutralizing antibodies that targeted TGF-beta. After eight weeks, tissue samples were examined.

The aortas of mice with Marfan syndrome had returned to normal size and architecture. The researchers concluded that an overabundance of TGF-beta causes Marfan syndrome.

Similar tests were conducted with losartan in place of neutralizing antibodies and the same results were achieved.

Since the tests with mice, Dietz has started testing losartan in children and has found similar results. He is currently planning a 600-person study of the efficacy of losartan in children with Marfan syndrome.

In one case in which his patient had made a near full recovery he said, "I still get the shivers every time I see that kid. I've known him every moment of his life."

Dietz has also shown losartan to be effective in treating other diseases such as Duchenne muscular dystrophy and Loeys-Dietz syndrome. He said that the research done in Marfan Syndrome has helped him "have a better starting point to explore other diseases."



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Abraham Lincoln's characteristic lankiness may have been due to Marfan syndrome.

Quintuple transplant at hospital is successful

By **STEPHEN BERGER**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

In a groundbreaking operation at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, five patients received kidneys simultaneously from five strangers. The marathon procedure, which involved 23 doctors and 18 nurses over 10 hours, was the most complicated organ transplant attempted to date.

Transplants of organs including kidneys and hearts have become relatively routine in the United States since the 1960s, when the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) was founded. Virtually all candidates for organ transplantation must go through a rigorous screening process and then wait on a UNOS list, sometimes for years, for a suitable match.

Recently, some transplant teams, including the one at Hopkins, have started to perform transplants for patients on the condition that the patient find

someone willing to offer an organ to someone else.

These arrangements bypass some of the tedium associated with the UNOS waiting list, although the organization is still involved with screening and coordination. Additionally, many experts argue that the direct-swap system provides a more efficient distribution of live organs, since many individuals are willing to donate if it will help a loved one receive an organ.

This last point has some ethicists and policymakers concerned that the new trend resembles a sort of *quid pro quo* for body parts, which is illegal under federal law. Robert Montgomery, the head of the Hopkins transplant team, and others are urging a revision of the law to accommodate the new practice.

The organ transplants on Nov. 14 involved five patients with severe kidney disease, all on renal dialysis, who came to Hopkins from as far as California and

Ontario. Typically, organ swaps involve no more than two or three pairs of people. In this case, four of the patients had family or friends who were matches for someone else in the group. A fifth kidney came from an "altruistic donor."

All of the patients and donors are recuperating well from the procedure and are expected to make full recoveries.

Finding a suitable match is one of the most difficult aspects of the organ transplant process, though it is the one most directly relieved by the new process. Every cell in the human body displays a variety of sugars and protein, called antigens, on the cell surface. The immune system uses these antigens to determine cells that are native or foreign.

In the case of an organ transplant, surgical implantation of a non-matched organ typically leads to an inflammatory immune response and rejection of the organ.

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YOUR NEWS-LETTER

HOW TO BREAK UP

Think it's time to call it quits? Hopkins students give the breakdown on breaking up.

However you decide to end it, most people agree that a good breakup should be done in person. "Instant messages are not good. I've done it before, but I don't prefer it," senior Brian Deleo recommended. "Same goes for texting or e-mail," Erik Napp added, "Oh ... and you can't be wasted either."

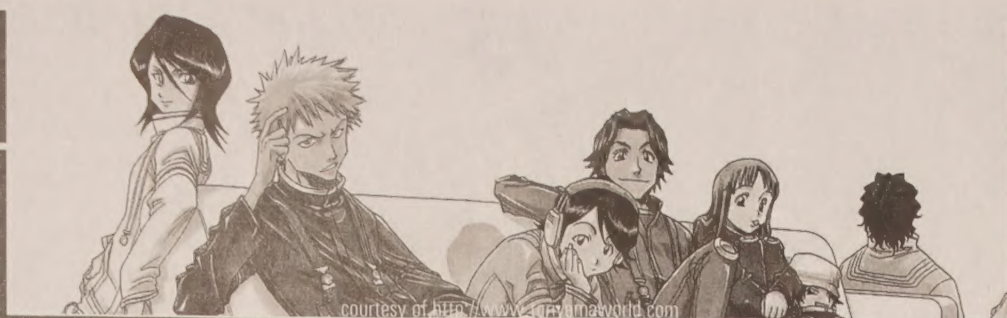
Sophomore Adam Tanious claimed there are two ways to say goodbye. The first way, he said, is to "act in a way so that he/she will break up with you. I mean, it's not as considerate, but it works." In agreement with Tanious are juniors Andrew Rocca and Andrew Zucherman. Rocca suggested, "You should try to trick them into breaking up with you." "But how?," you may ask. "Just don't meet up with simple demands. Oh, and don't go to their formals or your formals." Zucherman claimed—he ditched his girlfriend to go to sleep early. After all, he had to wake up at 3 a.m. to watch *Battlestar Galactica*. What a heart-breaker!

Tanious's second breakup method is quick, clean and hey! — it even has some moral value: "You can also be completely straightforward and honest." Freshman Victoria Sowa said, "Break it to them gently. Give them at least three reasons. Tell him/her that you still love them, but you cannot continue to love them in that way anymore." Although this way may lack the cowardice and creativity of the first formula, it seemed to be the breakup of choice among most students interviewed.

If neither of these strategies seems right for you, freshman Dan Myers had an easy alternative. "When they come near you, throw water balloons at them!"

Telling someone you don't want to see them, don't want to talk to them and/or don't love them may seem difficult. But just follow these easy break-up tips, and it'll be easy!

— Mary Doman



HOW TO AD

It's easy to assume that advertising is irrelevant to our society and that we tend to ignore the hidden cues in an advertisement. But there is more to advertising's message than meets the casual eye. An effective ad, like other forms of communication, works best when it strikes a chord in the needs and desires of the receiving consumer. This connection provided by the advertisements can influence our behaviors and make us buy certain products. Although most ads look simple and concise, they are both intuitive and highly calculated. Below are 12 questions you should ask when you are either creating or interpreting an ad, which I learned through a marketing internship.

1. What is the general ambience of the advertisement? What mood does it create?

2. What is the design of the advertisement? How are the basic components or elements arranged?

3. What is the relationship between pictorial elements and written material?

4. What is the use of space in the advertisement? Is it full of graphic and written elements?

5. What signs and symbols do we find? What role do they play in the ad's impact?

6. If there are figures (men, women, children, animals) what are they like? What can be said

about their facial expressions, poses, hairstyle, age, sex, hair color, ethnicity, education, occupation and relationships to each other?

7. What does the ads background portray? What is the significance of the ad's background?

8. What action is taking place in the advertisement and what significance does it have? (This might be described as the ad's plot.)

9. What theme or themes do we find in the advertisement? What is it about? (The plot of an advertisement may involve a man and a dog walking but the theme might be ambition, friendliness, etc.)

10. How is the language used? What techniques are used in the advertisement texts — humor, alliteration, definition of life, comparisons or sexual innuendo?

11. What is the item being advertised and what role does it play in American culture and society?

12. What sociological, political, economic or cultural attitudes are indirectly reflected in the advertisement? An advertisement may be about a pair of blue jeans but it might, indirectly, reflect such matters as sexism, alienation, stereotyped thinking, conformism, generational conflict, loneliness, and elitism.

— Hyun Kim

HOW TO COOK

Recipes are for telling you how to cook the right way. I'm not here to write a recipe, but I am here to help. If you find you follow recipes but things still go awry, that you make a gigantic mess for seemingly very little reward, or otherwise have trouble in the kitchen, this is for you. I'm here to tell you how not to cook the wrong way, so the only thing left will be to do something right.

Most important: Follow the recipe. This may seem like a given, but I don't just mean the ingredients, I mean the directions about how to mix what in what order and for how long, what sort of dish to use, how long to cook for and at what temperature. Because something cooks for 40 minutes at, say, 200 F doesn't mean you can cook it for 20 at 400 degrees. If a recipe says to mix the flour and baking soda, then add that to the butter and sugar, don't dump butter, sugar, flour and baking soda into one bowl and mix everything at once. If a recipe says mix until just moist, don't overmix. Mincing is different than dicing, so make sure you're doing one and not the other, and if you don't know what either is, look them up. If you're supposed to soak something, marinate something, let something soften, have it melt, whatever, then do it. Cooking temperature, time, mixing order, amount of mixing — lots of things in the directions really do matter. As you gain more experience with cooking, you can decide for yourself what can be altered and what can't. For now, trust the recipe.

Start with the easy stuff. You can't go from boiling water to making *crème brûlée*. Small triumphs and small experiments will lead you to greater triumphs and greater experiments. For now, it's really better to cut your teeth on recipes you don't need to dedicate your life to, only to be disappointed when it doesn't turn out. You can usually judge which recipes are for you — and which aren't — just by looking at the number of ingredients and the number of directions.

Don't be worried about making a mess. I cook a lot, and my kitchen (and I) always look like a disaster afterwards. My food

presentation leaves something to be desired, and my sink is a nightmare after I'm done, but that doesn't mean the food isn't good. Don't be afraid. It's all part of your cooking style. Not to say if you are making a mess, you're doing something right — you're just not necessarily doing something wrong.

Use recipe substitutions with caution. If you're just starting to cook, you really don't have a feel for what can be subbed for what in a recipe. Sometimes it's easy — butter can be subbed for margarine, or vice versa. But using one of those "Buttery Spreads" — Smart Balance, etc. — will change your recipe. Replacing sugar with Splenda in certain recipes — generally, anything where the sugar is meant to provide structure as well as sweetness — won't always work. White sugar is not the same as brown sugar, and dark brown sugar is not the same as light brown sugar. The Internet is a wonderful thing, and if you don't have an ingredient, a quick search for "ingredient substitutions" will find you a wealth of resources. Until you know what you're dealing with, though, don't play around too much on your own, or you may end up wasting a lot of time and plenty of perfectly good ingredients.

Not all recipes can be reduced. Say you've got your grandma's recipe for five dozen cookies, but you only want to make a half dozen. You do all the math right, but the cookies come out salty or otherwise gross. Not all recipes reduce well, and even if they can be halved, they can't always be quartered, and so on. If you start getting into really tiny fractions of teaspoons when you reduce a recipe, you may want to find another one that's better suited for a smaller serving size or just be content with making more.

Meat is hard to prepare. It's slimy, it's a mess, and it can have nasty bacteria on it. There are ways you can store it, thaw it, and prepare it to avoid all that — but you're all are on your own. I'm a vegetarian.

Godspeed, brave souls. The last advice I can give you is to be strong, and feel no fear. As with anything, you only need patience and practice to triumph in the kitchen.

— Jordan Wyndelts

HOW TO ANIME

Anime (n.) — a transliteration of the Japanese word *a-ni-me*, in turn a transliteration of the English word animation. Used by Western cultures to describe a wide range of animated works done in typically flashy and stylized form originating from Japan.

"How do I get my hands on it?"

Find and download fansubs. Or buy the DVDs, if you can afford it. Fansubs — digital video files obtained from DVD or TV recordings in Japanese and edited to include subtitles — are produced by nonprofit subbing groups and freely distributed on the Internet. IRC and torrents are the most common way to obtain fansubs, but the ResNet firewall greatly diminishes their efficiency. Good starting points on campus would be the Hopkins DC++ hub. Information can be found online, including instructions, IRC channels and torrent sites.

"What should I watch?"

The only way to find suitable anime is to experiment with many different types. *Anime-newsnetwork.com* is an excellent

informational hub, incorporating a short description of the anime, a rating system and other details. *Anidb.info* and *anime-source.com* are also excellent resources for learning about various anime before watching. For starters, here is a short list of common genres and a few recommended titles. Happy viewing.

Action

Usually involves guns, swords, martial arts or some combination of the three in conjunction with science fiction and/or futuristic settings, although historical and fantasy types may also occur.

Examples: *Rurouni Kenshin*, *Naruto*, *Bleach*, *Samurai Champloo*, *Black Cat*.

Comedy

Typified by slapstick, school love-comedies, embarrassing sexual situations and ridiculous pretenses. Often puts humorous entertainment over plot development.

Examples: *School Rumble*, *Great Teacher Onizuka*, *Golden Boy*.

Drama

Heavy emphasis on tensions between characters, focusing more on character interaction,

with other elements often used as plot devices to advance character development. Often rather dark in general tone with angst prevalent throughout, but can also include more lighthearted types.

Examples: *Death Note*, *Fullmetal Alchemist*, *Mai-HiME*.

Fantasy

Features characters in medieval, supernatural, futuristic or historical settings. Often contains drama, romance, comedy and other themes.

Examples: *Fate/Stay Night*, *Chrono Crusade*, *Vision of Escaflowne*.

Mecha

Known infamously as the "giant robot" genre, although drama between characters rather than robot fights is usually the real focus.

Examples: *Gundam SEED*, *Full Metal Panic*, *RahXephon*, *Tekkaman Blade*.

Psychological

Spans all genres, but characterized by series elements being used to thoroughly analyze characters or deliver a message. Often aimed at more mature au-

diences.

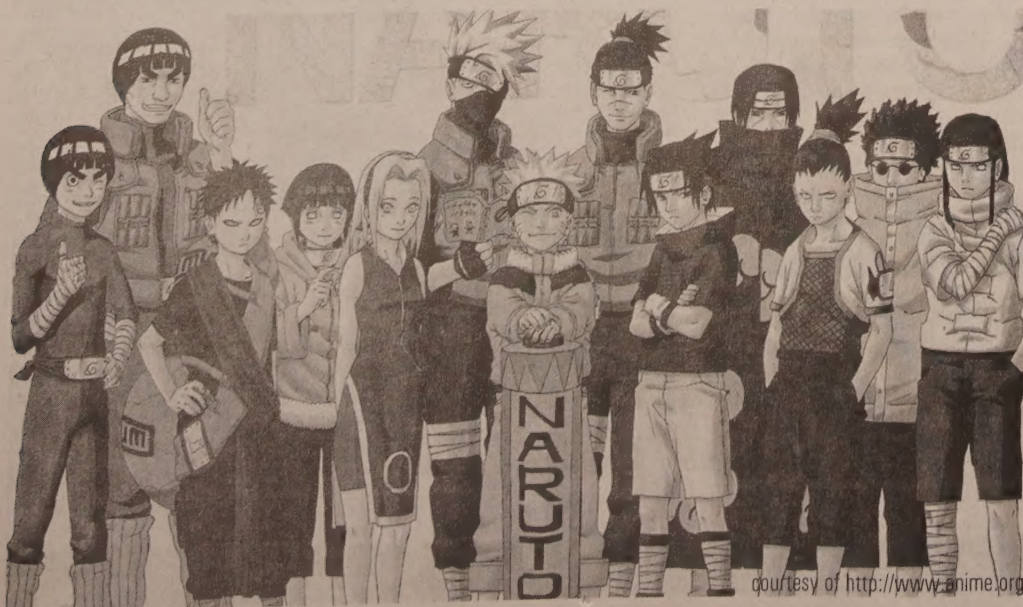
Examples: *Cowboy Bebop*, *Neon Genesis Evangelion*, *Elfen Lied*.

Romance

Boy-meets-girl (but not always) complicated by strange circumstances designed to make romance difficult, often to comedic effect.

Examples: *Chobits*, *Love Hina*, *Tenchi Muyo*, *Midori no Hibi*.

— Jeffrey Yu

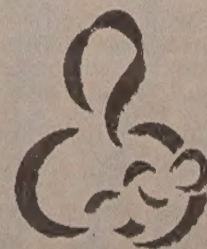


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SPORTS

Women's basketball suffers second-half collapse

By MIKE GLENWICK
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

During the holiday season gifts seem to be all over the place. America's consumers flock to the country's malls and rush to nearby stores as a part of a gift-giving craze in which everyone somehow ends up with at least one coveted item. The basketball gods, however, never present such gifts, not even in the cheery month of December, as no win is ever guaranteed. The Lady Jays' narrow 66-60 victory this past Tuesday over the McDaniel College Green Terror was a case in point, as the Lady Jays were able to hold on to the slimmest of leads throughout the game before clinching victory.

Hopkins got out to an early lead against the Terror when junior forward Andrea Dodrill started things off with a lay-up to give her team a brief 2-0 lead. Dodrill, who has been one of the most important players of late, continued her impressive play, combining with tri-captain senior forward Julie Miller to keep the pressure on McDaniel.

As the half progressed, Hopkins was able to take advantage of the play of some of its more veteran players, building a fairly substantial 29-19 lead against McDaniel with only a few minutes left in the half. The Jays continued to utilize their up-tempo offense and miserly defense, as they maintained that 10-point lead until halftime.

Coming back on to the court for the beginning of the second half, Hopkins showed that it was not about to let a nice 10-point lead wash away. In fact, the team continued to go right at McDaniel, with Miller leading the charge. With 15 minutes re-

maining in the half, Miller — who led the team in scoring with 21 points — drove to the basket, hit the lay-up and got fouled in the process. After converting the traditional three-point play, the Jays held what appeared to be an insurmountable 45-28 lead.

Although well-earned, this gift-like lead may have been too much for Hopkins to handle, as the seventeen-point lead was whittled down rather quickly. With more than 11 minutes left, the lead was down to six.

Nonetheless, the Jays prevailed, withstanding a run by a team that has presented a bit of a challenge in years past.

"McDaniel has always been a tough opponent for us," tri-captain senior guard Whitney Davis said. "We have always maintained an intense rivalry with them, and the games we play against them [have always been] tough, physical games."

Earlier in the week, on Saturday, Hopkins was not as successful, losing 75-58 to the Muhlenberg College Lady Mules. The game was, for the most part, a tale of two halves.

In that first half, Hopkins jumped out to an early 4-3 lead after Miller and Davis hit a lay-up and jump-shot, respectively. The Jays stayed with Muhlenberg for the entire half, never trailing by



Freshman guard Anastasia Wynn receives some abuse as she drives against the Garnet defense.

more than three points. A three-pointer by Miller, who made 20 from distance last season, gave Hopkins a slim 28-27 lead with 3:25 to go in the first half.

As the defending Centennial Conference champions, Muhlenberg didn't permit Hopkins to hold that lead for long, and by halftime, Hopkins was down again, 31-30.

Still the team performed well in that first half, particularly against the caliber of players it

was facing.

"I think our aggressive mentality and up-tempo style of play was the key to our success in the first half," Davis said. "We played aggressive, hard defense and did not let [Muhlenberg] get many open looks."

The second half was another story altogether, as the strong play that defined the first half seemed to disappear. Halfway through the period, the Jays' chances for victory were, for all intents and purposes, zero, as the Lady Mules built a 61-38 lead. Hopkins tried to muster a bit of a comeback, scoring 20 points in the final 10 minutes, but it failed to deter a motivated Muhlenberg offense from scoring.

"Muhlenberg caught fire in the second half," Miller said. "We lost momentum as we allowed them to dictate the pace of the game."

By no means is this squad where it wants to be. But, with a core of veteran leaders and a number of prominent younger players, the team is optimistic that the best gifts of the season are yet to come, even if they are delayed in getting there.

"This is the most focused team I've play on for Hopkins," Miller said. "I feel like the kinks will work themselves out and we'll be peaking at the right time."

Hockey struggles to bring in fans

Although it's a club sport, ice hockey's renewed sense of dedication has a real varsity feel to it

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A12
And drop their gloves they have because after the first nine games in the 2006 season, the Blue Jays have spent a total of 209 minutes in the penalty box. But this "jail time" hasn't helped. As in the words of actor Eric Nest-erenko a.k.a. Blane Youngblood, "You can learn to punch in the barn, but you got to learn to survive on the ice."

Along with their high number of minutes in the penalty box, the ice hockey team has a high number of goals. However, these goals have not translated into victories as the team only has two wins.

Between the movies, songs and fights, it seems like the ice hockey team just loves a good show. The biggest disappointment for the team has been the number of spectators at their games.

"I would say our biggest weakness is that we don't have enough support," Eken said. "The more support we have, the better we do."

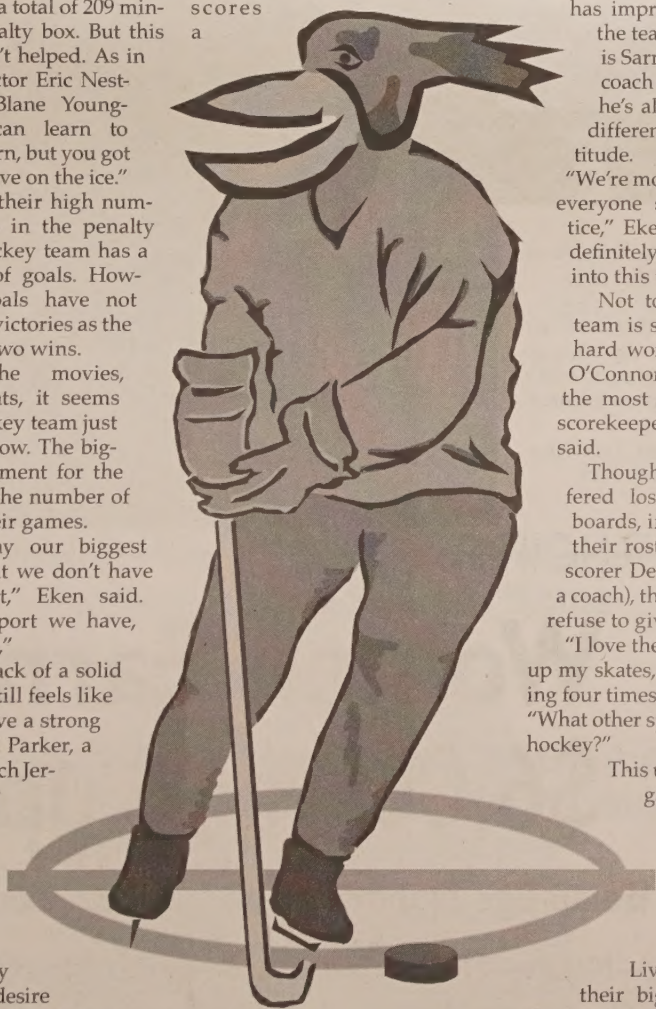
Despite the lack of a solid fan base, Eken still feels like the Blue Jays have a strong team. Junior Bill Parker, a player Head Coach Jeremy Sarnovsky holds in high regard, currently leads the brick-wall defense.

"His steady play and strong desire to succeed are attributes that make him a true leader on our team," Sarnovsky said.

Senior captain Jeff Warren is the true leader of the team, with his penalty minutes being the

only statistic category above his impressive point total.

"Jeff plays hard and scores a



be." Contrary to popular belief, the Hopkins ice hockey players are definitely not the same boys they used to be. One thing that has improved this season is the team's dedication. This is Sarnovsky's first year as coach of the Blue Jays, and he's already made quite a difference in the team's attitude.

"We're more serious now, and everyone shows up to practice," Eken said. "Our coach definitely puts a lot of effort into this team."

Not to be forgotten, the team is supported in by the hard work of manager Jane O'Connor. "She really makes the most of her time in the scorekeeper's booth," Livadas said.

Though the Jays have suffered losses on the scoreboards, in the stands and on their roster (last year's high scorer Devin Demers is now a coach), there's one thing they refuse to give up.

"I love the game, I love lacing up my skates, I get to go ice skating four times a week," Eken said. "What other sport can compare to hockey?"

This undying love for the game, mixed with a fresh coach and a new attitude will hopefully bring success to the hockey team. And as Livadas emphasizes, their biggest wish during this holiday season is for the Hopkins student body to come and cheer them.

"I want the word to get out to Hopkins that we actually have a hockey team."

But he also spends a lot of time in the penalty box," Eken said.

Eric Prydz once sung, "Call on me, I'm the same boy I used to

Who says a glutton can't be Athlete of the Week?

When people today hear the word "China," many think of the billions of people working in the world's fastest growing economy. Others may ponder the awe-inspiring nature of the country's ancient landmarks like Tiananmen Square, the Great Wall and the Forbidden City. And maybe a few individuals will remember the nation's collection of prominent historical figures, such as Qin Shihuang, Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping.

But here on the Homewood campus, a great athlete's name comes to mind rather than a perplexing free-market, an overrated quadrilateral or some boring old tyrant. Once a sickly child, this man eventually grew to be as swift as a coursing river, as forceful as a great typhoon and as strong as a raging fire. (Unfortunately, he never became as mysterious as the dark side of the moon.) This man, following many bowls of steamy white rice

and what he calls, "delicious tough guy sandwiches," turned into an eating machine.

This "beast," if I may, after being repeatedly dropped as a newborn and concussed by years of enemy footballers, soon thereafter formed a head of steel. This "supernatural being," ladies and germs, now walks among us.

His name? Scott "Trumpets Please" Yin.
Yin, a self-proclaimed everyday professional, competed recently in the Annual Pete's Grille Pancake Eating Contest. On a dreary Friday morning, an inebriated yet inexplicably coordinated Yin sauntered over to this Baltimore hotspot at 7 a.m. to win the \$500 grand prize. As the blow horn sounded, 20 or so participants began gorging on hundreds of buttery flapjacks. After tossing back five and then seeing one of his competitors fall out of contention due to a sudden heave-ho, an unflappable Yin refused to be "shook" and resorted to his patented water-dunking method. At seven, he hit the proverbial wall. Disgusted, enraged and temporarily blinded, Yin continued to inhale his fried dough. Glancing at the leader and then at his plate, he stuffed two more breakfast cakes down his trembling orifice before waving the white flag. When all the dust had settled, Yin had finished an upsetting fifth.

"My goal was to eat 45," Yin said. "And yea, I also plan on winning the lottery twice before I graduate."

Gluttony, however, is not the only event in which Scott Yin excels. Earlier this year, he went to war with the Chinese against the Koreans in the Kikkoman Soy Sauce Rice Bowl. A grizzled veteran, having made two previous bowl appearances, Yin was determined to end the Korean winning streak. In 2004, the Chinese made the game close thanks to Yin who anchored an impenetrable three-man offensive line. In 2005, the Chinese were blown out by a speedy Korean contingent. But during the game, Yin trucked his way to a 140-yard touchdown dance giving the mainlanders a reason to celebrate if only for a brief moment. But all the months of grueling preparation and game planning for the 2006 version of the Rice Bowl by Captain Liang Zhou were all for naught. The Korean team prevailed.

But where does Yin fit into all of this?

After the first quarter of play, the Koreans held a commanding lead. Knowing that desperate times call for desperate measures while

humming the lyrics to the M.O.P. rendition of "Cold as Ice," Yin attempted to make a score-saving tackle. Instead of "bringing down the house," a minor concussion brought down his.

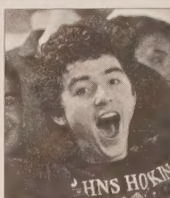
"Next thing I know, I'm making fun of the paramedics and talking to the ER receptionist about the contents of my wallet," Yin said.

As for the embarrassing loss? "I still do not know the exact final score this year, though I know we probably got destroyed," Yin said. "Their Taepodong missiles destroyed our Great Wall, [but] as for next year, I foresee a Great Leap Forward."

Dedicated, resilient and underappreciated. Those are just three adjectives that one could attach to such an athlete. However, no one can claim that this man is not an athlete for the ages.

It should go without saying that Yao Ming's reign as his country's premier sportsman is over. Scott Yin is Red China's real pride and joy.

Don't forget it.



Matthew E. Murray

Sports Oddity

Women's fencing succumbs to Big Red, 17-10

By ALEXANDER IP
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Nothing is more rewarding than learning from past failures and mistakes. And as the women's fencing team continues to build on their slow but promising start to the 2006-2007 campaign, they are showing that this is a lesson they've already learned. Of the 11 Lady Jay fencers who competed at the NIWFA (National Intercollegiate Women's Fencing Association) Christmas Invitational at the New Jersey Institute of Technology this past weekend, eight of them made the semi-finals stage in each of their respective events, while five nearly went the distance in advancing to their event finals.

The always stellar senior sabre Sarah Smilow ended her day in fifth place with fellow sabre

sophomore Erica Hartmann following right behind her with a sixth-place finish.

Three Hopkins fencers placed consecutively in the foil event with sophomore foil Grace Fried leading in sixth place, freshman Samantha Dolan in seventh and freshman Katie Kim finishing eighth.

Over a month ago, the team went 2-1 overall in the Cornell Invitational on the weekend of Nov. 19. The Lady Jays trounced the Yeshiva Maccabees by a score of 22-5 and slipped by the Stevens Tech Ducks, 15-12. Unfortunately, the team fell short

to Cornell, losing to Big Red 17-10.

"Our biggest weakness right now is that our epee squad just doesn't have as much bouting experience as do the other squads," Smilow said. "But that will come as our season progresses."

On the first weekend in November, the Jays tried their hardest to carry their strong showing from their first tournament at Temple University into the Penn State Open.

At Penn State, the bright spots for Jays continued to be the

Our biggest weakness right now is that our epee squad just doesn't have ... much bouting experience ...

— SENIOR SABRE SARAH SMILOW

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SPORTS

Wrestling takes 11th at Petrofes Invitational

By ZACH GOODMAN
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

In Messiah's grueling, 14-team Petrofes Invitational, Hopkins finished ahead of three of their four Centennial Conference rivals. However, as far as "moral victories" are concerned, it remains to be seen what this early season result means.

Hopkins came in 11th out of 14 squads with 55 total points, finishing ahead of the Centennial foes that rounded out the bottom three spots. United States Merchant Marine Academy Kings Point took 12th with 49.5 points, Ursinus next with 45.5 points and the lowly Washington & Lee sunk to the basement with 23.5 points. Heidelberg took the weekend's top honors with 173 points. The tournament exposed the weakness of the Jays' conference compared with other Division III competition, with one key exception: Muhlenberg. The Mules put forth a solid effort at the tournament, nabbing the No. 5 spot.

"Muhlenberg looks surprisingly strong this year," sophomore 197-pounder Tyler Schmidt said.

The 11th-place finish marks a regression for the Jays, who last year took eighth at Petrofes, standing as high as sixth after the tournament's first day. However, it should be noted that last year's tourney hosted only 10 other contingents.

Still, Hopkins brought home four top-five individual finishes in 2005, compared to two this year. Junior 184-pounder Eric Fishel offered the best Hopkins performance. Starting the competition with the No. 6 seed, Fishel scored an upset to finish fourth. Fishel utilized his first-round bye and started fast, winning his first two matches including a 4-1 upset over Lycoming's No. 3-seeded Bryan Kopesky in the second match. But then he came up against the eventual winner of the weight class, Bridgewater State's James Quinlan, the second seed. Quinlan finished off Fishel with a fall at 1:02, bumping the latter to the consolation bracket.

Nevertheless, Fishel was not discouraged, as he nabbed another dramatic upset victory, earning a pin in his first consolation match against Mt. Union's fifth-seeded Adam Lange only 13 seconds before the end of the



LAURA BITTNER/FILE PHOTO

Sophomore 125-pounder Mike Sumner struggles futilely to get off his back against James Madison University's Louis Sweet.

first period. Sadly, the magic ran out in the third-place bout. Fishel couldn't hang on against Kyle Rooney of Heidelberg, the No. 4 seed. Rooney took the hard-fought match, 5-1, still leaving Fishel with Hopkins' best finish of the tournament.

Senior 141-pounder Marco Priolo entered the tournament as the fourth seed, building on last year's No. 5-seed berth, but he couldn't match last year's results. In 2005, Priolo upset the Nos. 3 and 4 wrestlers to earn the top Hopkins finish, third place. But 2006 saw him fall to the No. 1 seed, Springfield College's Mike Gaeta, who won the bracket in 2005, and then fall to the seventh-ranked wrestler, Bridgewater State's John Marsh. Marsh took third while Priolo recovered with a 6-5 decision against Mt. Union's Sean Dreger to take fifth.

But the real story of the 141 bracket was Muhlenberg sophomore Rob Kein who entered the tournament unseeded. He proceeded to reel off upset after upset, including Heidelberg's Nick Sanchez, the No. 2 seed, and Gaeta for the championship. The result will certainly spell an exciting match when Priolo sees Kein on the Mules' home turf on Jan. 20. By then, a more experienced and fine-tuned Jays lineup could make the difference.

"As long as we match up well

against them, we'll have a very good chance," Schmidt said.

Schmidt was another strong finisher for the Jays. The seventh seed to start the competition, Schmidt made it as far as the fifth-place match where he went down by fall against SUNY Oneonta's Dennis Norton. The sixth-place finish was among the Jays' best and a sweet one for Schmidt who placed above his seed. Yet, for a sophomore on an upward trajectory, it wasn't enough.

"I'm actually quite upset with my performance," he said. "I lost to [King's College's] Jason Reilly, who I pinned earlier this year [at the Messiah Invitational]."

Hopkins has now seen the entire Centennial Conference save Stevens and Gettysburg in tournament competition, and, with the exception of Muhlenberg, has topped them all. The Jays finished fifth of seven at the Messiah Invitational on Nov. 4, a spot ahead of McDaniel. But the finishes have also demonstrated the fickleness of tournament wrestling, where the right draw can make the difference between a good and bad day.

Hopkins has enjoyed some strong finishes at tournaments this year, especially after taking fourth at the Red Dragon Invitational, but their reliance on a few strong wrestlers will prove a serious weakness when dual

meets begin in earnest in January. Wrestlers like Fishel, Priolo and Schmidt can continue earning points for the Jays all day long in a tournament setting, but will have only one chance in key Centennial bouts.

More than anything, the Jays need a contribution from their lightweights. Hopkins may have topped McDaniel, for example in Messiah Invitational, but the Green Terror boasts strong wrestlers at 125 and 133 and could prove a formidable foe in one-on-one competition. But with more experience and a more dual-focused strategy centered on point-saving tactics, the Jays could drastically improve.

"Once we adjust our team for duals, we'll get better performances out of all our guys," Schmidt said.

The Jays head to sunny Florida for some action during the break at the Citrus Open in Ft. Lauderdale on Dec. 29-30. They return to Goldfarb for a conference match against Gettysburg on Jan. 11.

W. Fencing struggles at NIWFA Christmas Invite

Junior Cindy Liu places 17th as epee squad places five Jays

Continued from Page A10
foil and sabre-wielders. Three Hopkins foils, Fried, Dolan and freshman Hana Bao made the top 55. In the sabre event, Smilow and Hartmann faced some stiff competition to place 35th and 30th, respectively.

The lagging epee squad saw its troubles worsen when none of the girls placing among the top 55.

There were some definite improvements to be seen in the epee squad at the NIWFA Christmas Invitational as junior epee Cindy Liu proved to be the best out of the Lady Jays group that day, finishing in 17th place. Senior epee Kim Strazdas scrounged up a 21st place finish, senior Joanna Kochaniak took home 26th place, and sophomore Lynn Lee rounded out the group with a respectable 39th place finish.

Once again, Smilow did her part in leading the charge for the Blue Jays at Cornell, going 8-1 overall in her nine bouts between the three schools present at the Invitational. Dolan also turned in good day at Ithaca with seven wins and only one match loss.

The Jays' fantastic performances against the Maccabees can largely be attributed to the fact that Yeshiva's fencers play on a club sport team, as opposed to Stevens Tech, which possesses a much stronger varsity team.

"Since we fenced Stevens right at the start of the day we were not physically or mentally ready," Smilow said. "It takes a couple of bouts to get in the swing of things for fencers."

Despite an overall team loss to Cornell, there was definitely one Jay who had a standout performance that gave Hopkins a boost versus the Big Red. Freshmen foil Katie Kim, who had a 6-3 day, recorded three of the five Hopkins

wins against Cornell with the foil.

To the girls on the team, the Cornell defeat will not go in vain as the Lady Jays retain a positive outlook for the future of the 2006 season.

"We [now] have a sense of what the better schools will be doing, in terms of timing and speed," Smilow said. "Every bout lost is a learning experience and makes a fencer that much more knowledgeable when she faces her next opponent."

The Jays' next tournament won't be until the weekend of Jan. 20 when they will attend the Haverford multi meets.

Until then, the team will be working on continually improving tactically and learning from each bout and meet in order to attain their goal of becoming one of the top three teams in the NIWFA Championship. Most importantly, the team hopes for all of their weapons to keep on contributing equally to their wins.

"We can't win meets based on individual strength alone; we all have to do well," Hartmann said.



TURSINA ABDUL RASHID/FILE PHOTO

The Lady Jays spar in a 2005 match-up.

Test named swimmer of the meet

Men's team places fourth at Nike Invite as 200-yard freestyle relay squad qualifies for NCAAs

Continued from Page A12
time of 1:57.16 in the preliminary race. Each was about a second off the qualifying time.

"I was happy with the way our team swam," Foster said. "The girls really stepped up when they had to and had some good swims."

The men's team also put forth a fine showing at the invitational meet. Brad Test finished first in the 50-yard freestyle in a speedy 20.92 seconds. His preliminary time of 20.71 was .02 seconds off the A-cut time. Test also won the 100-yard freestyle with a time of 45.09 in the final race, but it was his time in the qualifying race that eventually proved to be the fastest of the day. Both happened to qualify as A-cut times for the

junior.

"It's a weight off my shoulders knowing that I've already made it [to nationals]," Test said. "Now we just have to work hard for the next two months to prepare."

The 400-yard freestyle relay team of Test, freshman John Thomas, senior Kevin Walsh and freshman A.J. Blood finished in fourth with a time of 3:06.37. Later in the meet, Test and Thomas teamed up again, this time with senior Keith Parent and junior Matt Fedderly, in the 200-yard medley relay in which they were the runners-up (1:33.67). Walsh, Test and Thomas along with freshman Neil Mahoney combined efforts in the 200-yard freestyle relay which finished fourth in the meet and qualified

for NCAAs with a time of 1:23.69. When all was said and done, Test finished the meet with three first places, a second, a third and a fourth.

"I have to give credit to the other guys, especially those on my relays," Test said. "Without them, I wouldn't have had such a good weekend."

But Test wasn't the only member of the men's team who swam well this past weekend. John Thomas had good individual race to go along with his success in the relays. He finished fourth behind Test in the 100-yard freestyle, but it was his preliminary time of 46.50 that earned him his B-cut. He achieved his second B-cut in the 200-yard backstroke (1:51.13) finishing in second place. It was the 100-yard backstroke, however, that automatically qualified Thomas for nationals making his A-cut (50.56). He also won the race in a tight finish.

The men's team also excelled in the 200-yard butterfly with three teammates making their B-cuts, sophomore Bob Sershon (1:53.58), Parent (1:54.28) and Colin Kleinguetl (1:54.37). Sershon also made his B-cut in the 100-yard butterfly finishing third with a time of 50.89. Switching it up a bit, Kleinguetl also made his B-cut in the 1650-yard freestyle, a race that took him over 16 grueling minutes to complete. The 100-yard and 200-yard breaststrokes were also strong events for the Jays. Both Fedderly (57.13, 2:06.54) and sophomore John Kegelman (58.52, 2:06.89) made B-cuts in both races, and finished second and third in the 200-yard race. Lastly, senior Richard Guerard narrowly missed his A-cut time by .03 in the 200-yard freestyle, completing the race in 1:40.83 taking third place.



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER

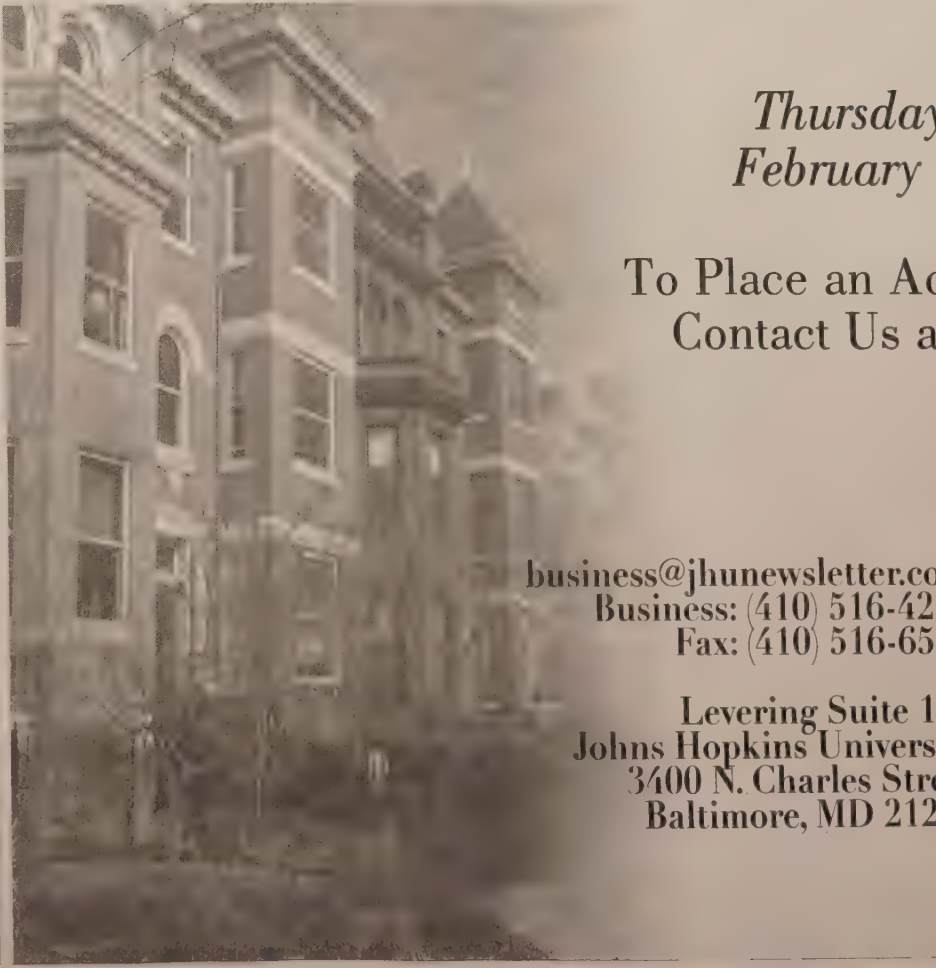
Many members of the men's swimming team qualified for NCAAs at the Nike Invite.

THE JOHNS HOPKINS
NEWS-LETTER

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SPORTS

Did You Know?

I say San Diego Chargers' runningback LaDainian Tomlinson is on a tear right now would be quite the understatement. Through twelve games this regular season, L.T. has scored twenty-three touchdowns on 257 carries for 1,324 yards. In fact, during last Sunday's game at Buffalo, Tomlinson averaged an eye popping 6.4 yards per carry while finding the endzone three times.

CALENDAR

THURSDAY

W. Basketball vs. Washington 7 p.m.

SATURDAY

M. Basketball vs. Dickinson 2 p.m.

Men's ice hockey making strides with new coach

By MARY DOMAN
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

"Thank God there is a sport for middle-sized white boys," Patrick Swayze says in his 1986 hit *Youngblood*.

Surprisingly enough, these words may perhaps be the essence of the Hopkins ice hockey team as many of these skating Jays claim to watch the movie with regularity.

"It's an underrated masterpiece," senior goalie Kerim Eken said.

"It's a classic '80s movie with great mullets and bad acting," senior co-captain Peter Livadas said.

When the team isn't watching the cinematic excellence that is *Youngblood*, its members listen to techno-tronic sensation Eric Prydz performing his hit "Call on Me."

"It relaxes us before the game and reminds us to just go out there and have fun," Livadas said. Few, however, see this softer side of the Blue Jay ice hockey team. Though their aggression may seem aimless, it only springs from

a passion for the team.

"We're willing to fight for one another out on the ice," Eken said.

Much about the Hopkins club hockey team is hidden beneath the shadow that varsity sports like lacrosse, basketball and soccer cast during the year, so there is a lot to learn about this gutsy group of guys. For example, did you know our players' new jerseys have "fighting straps" attached to them? That's right, the Jays have to specially attach their jerseys to their pants so their opponents can't rip them off.

"We're not afraid to drop our gloves out there," Eken said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE A10



COURTESY OF DAVE JOHNSON

Although the ice hockey team only has two wins, they haven't stopped playing tough with 209 penalty minutes.

Men's basketball beats Muhlenberg, now 7-0

By JOHN MONAGAN
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

For the men's basketball team, the holiday season has brought many great joys to the Blue Jays: the surprising point guard tandem of sophomore Colin Kamm and freshman Pat O'Connell, the sharp shooting of junior guard Doug Polster and a nice national ranking.

The other good news for the Blue Jays: Everyone's favorite holiday fiend, the notoriously greedy Mr. Grinch, has yet to show up at the Goldfarb Gymnasium or during one of Hopkins' away games to deliver a loss. And after a hard-fought victory last Saturday at Muhlenberg, the No. 18-ranked men's team's record stands at a spotless 7-0.

The Mules, who many thought would battle Hopkins and Ursinus for Centennial Conference supremacy, led the game at half-time by four, but the Blue Jays used clutch shooting from Polster and a good effort from big men Dan Nawrocki and Matt Griffin to pull away in the second half for a 62-56 win.

The Jays continued a disturbing trend of struggling in the first half of play, trailing at the half for the fourth time in their last five games. They shot just 31 percent from the field in the opening session before coming back to shoot over 50 percent in the second half.

"The second half has been our biggest friend this year," Head Coach Bill Nelson said. "We've trailed or been really close after

the first half in our last few games.

"Nowadays, we are just happy to see the second half."

As soon as the whistle to start the second half blew, the Blue Jays took over, immediately erasing their four point deficit with a 10-2 run. Hopkins eventually opened up a 10-point lead with big buckets from Polster and junior forward Kevin Roach. Much to Mule's fans' (and the greedy Grinch's) dismay, Muhlenberg never recovered.

"We have been winning games the best way we can," senior forward Zack Armen said. "We've been using all parts of our team — our big guys inside, our shooters outside and our bench to win these games."

Griffin finished with 15 points and 10 rebounds for the Jays. Polster finished with 13 points on 4-6 shooting from three-point range, and Kamm played superbly at the point guard spot carrying the load, while O'Connell sat out due to illness.

Kamm finished with 10 points in 37 minutes played. Senior Dan Nawrocki added 10 rebounds.

Hopkins men's basketball continues their season this week at McDaniel and on Saturday at



LAURA BITNER/NEWS-LETTER

Junior guard Doug Polster elevates as he shoots over a Rowan defender during a recent JHU victory.

home against Dickinson. While Coach Nelson has the talent needed to succeed in conference play, the Blue Jays will need to stop costly turnovers during the first half of play if they want to continue on their impressive winning streak.

Luckily, opponents have thus far been unable to convert turn-

overs into points, but should the Blue Jays continue to turn it over as much as they have (20 against Muhlenberg) it will come back to bite them against a more talented team.

Without a change in the near future, thieves like the Grinch will soon be stealing more than just presents.

Swimming goes the extra nautical mile

By CALEB GROFF
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The men's and women's swim teams traveled to Gambier, Ohio this past weekend to compete in the Nike Cup Invitational hosted by Kenyon College. The women's team finished in fourth place with a total of 295 points. The men's team finished in third place with a total of 608 points, while junior Brad Test was awarded Swimmer of the Meet honors.

Numerous swimmers on both teams made their B and A-cuts for the NCAA finals in March. (An explanatory note: "B-cuts" do not automatically qualify swimmers for the national meet, but swimmers are essentially eligible for the meet in March. "A-cuts" automatically qualify swimmers for the championship meet in the spring.)

The women's team started the meet with a sixth-place finish in the 800-yard freestyle relay. The relay, consisting of senior Allie Foster, sophomore Elissa Stautner, sophomore Kristin Cunningham and freshman Sarah Thomas, finished with a time of 7:46.95 which was a season best and an NCAA B-cut time. Following this success, Foster then came back in the 100-yard breaststroke with a fifth-place finish and managed to notch an additional B-cut time at 1:06.77. (However, her preliminary time of 1:06.55 was slightly better.) Foster reached her A-cut time in the 200-yard breaststroke

when she finished third with a time of 2:21.47. The last qualifying race of the meet occurred when Foster teamed up again with Cunningham, Thomas and sophomore Jackie Rooney in the 400-yard freestyle relay. The contingent finished with a time of 3:35.26, less than 0.2 seconds under the B-cut time for a fourth-place ribbon.

Many Lady Jays swam very well despite not quite qualifying for the championship meet. Rooney, who also qualified for the meet in the 400-yard freestyle relay, swam well in the 100-yard

freestyle (53.99) and the 50-yard freestyle (24.73) yet she narrowly missed B-cuts in both races. Rooney joined Foster, sophomore Megan Zepp and freshman Lisa Qu for the 400-yard medley relay which finished about a second off the B-cut time (4:02.26). Qu also barely missed her B-cut time in the 100-yard butterfly, finishing with a time of 59.26 in the preliminary race. Stautner was just off B-cut pace in the 500-yard freestyle coming in at 5:09.66. In the 200-yard freestyle she was also flying, stroking her way to a

CONTINUED ON PAGE A11



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER

The men's swimming team finished with a total of 608 points at the Nike Invite.

INSIDE

Wrestling toppling conference foes

Although their 11th place team finish at the Petrofes Invitational was a bit upsetting, the squad continues to dominate the Centennial in the tournament forum. Page A11.

Women's basketball can't keep up with Mules

After playing Muhlenberg tight during the first half of Saturday's game, the faster and stronger Mules went on to slaughter the Jays by a score of 75-58. Page A10.

Sport Oddity: China's Best Athlete

Junior Scott Yin isn't the most well-known athlete on the Homewood Campus. But as Matthew Murray reports, he's the new pancake-eating sensation to come out of East Asia. Page A10.

Jean Pool

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THE B SECTION

The Johns Hopkins
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DECEMBER 7, 2006

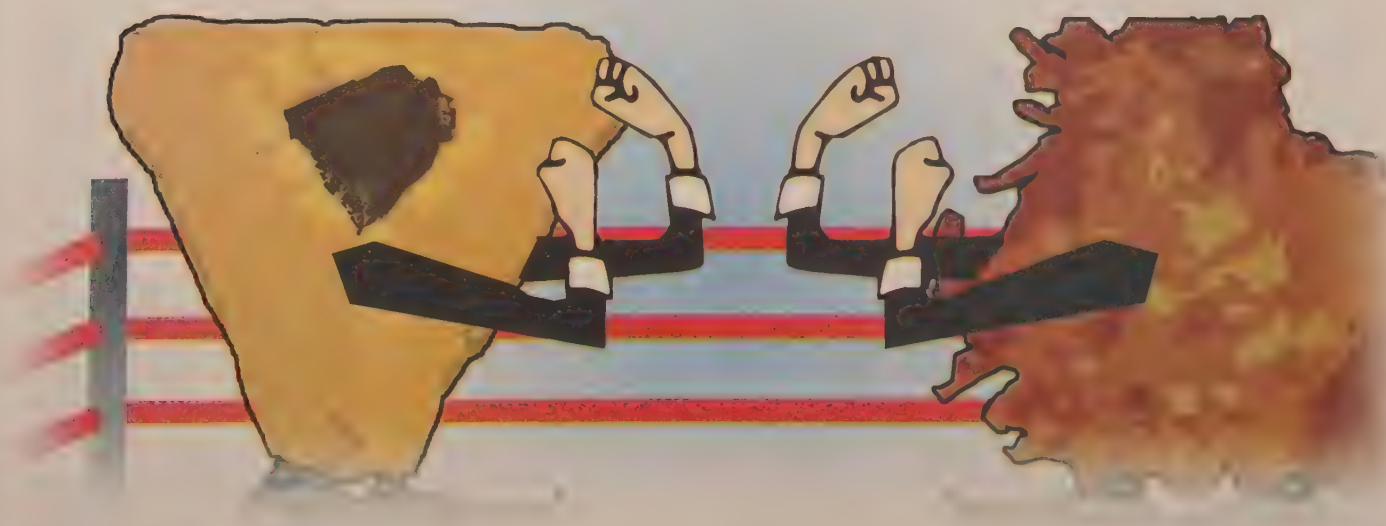


GRAPHIC BY MATT HANSEN

We wrap up 2006
with a look back at the year's
most notable, most original, most newsworthy goings-on in
the world of arts and entertainment. **Arts, B6.**

LET'S GET READY TO RUMBLE!

Hamentashen v. Latkes, who will reign supreme?

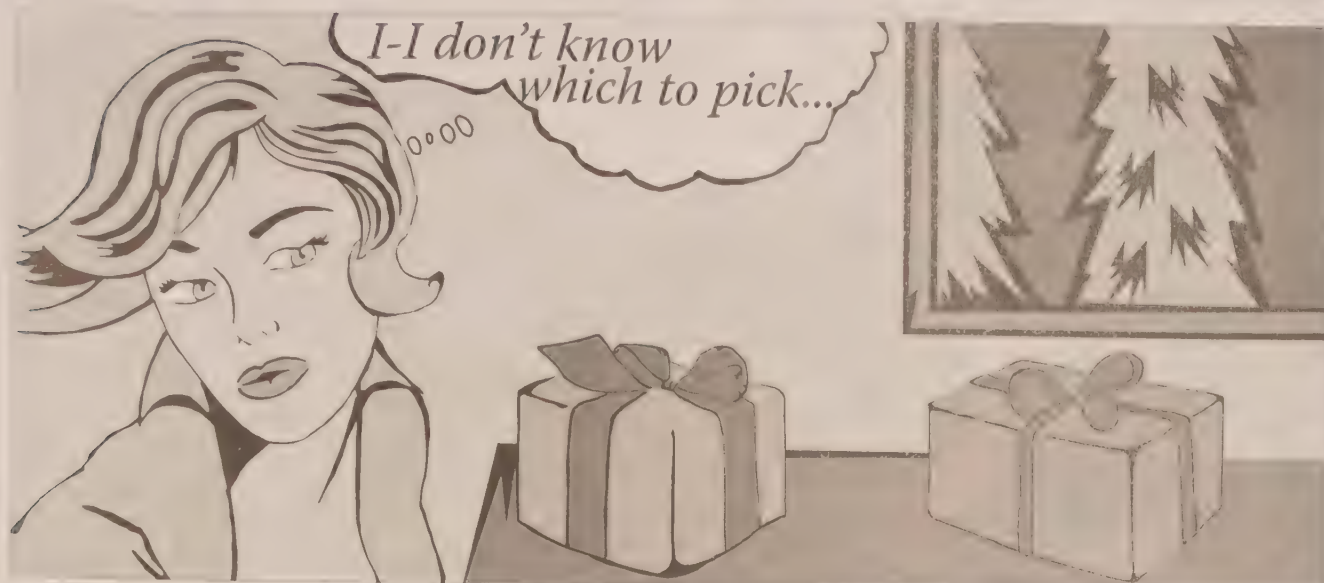


GRAPHIC BY SAMMY ROSE SALTZMAN

The chicken or the egg, soup or salad, Paris or Nicole: these disputes and others have existed since time immemorial. Recently, a lesser known controversy joined the fray this week at a Hillel-sponsored debate: latkes or hamantaschen. Jews around the world have argued persistently and at length about the merits of each delicacy,

weighing taste against difficulty of preparation, historical relevance against present irrelevance. And what do they have to show for it? Bupkes, that's what. Our gentle reporter ventured onto this age-old battlefield, and, though no actual progress in breaking the stalemate was made, he got a free T-shirt. **Features, B3.**

GIFT FOCUS



MATT HANSEN/NEWS-LETTER

Unique holiday gifts: Do they exist?

By **MELISSA ARTNAK**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Just when the stress of finals is piling up, on comes another mid-December source of pressure.

Holiday gift shopping. Sure, when you're running on an average of three hours of sleep and four cups of coffee a day, it's tempting to dash into the snazzy new school store and pick up Hopkins hoodies and coffee mugs for all of your favorite people.

This year, resist the temptation to be unimaginative and try out some unique gift ideas for all those special someones this holiday season. We'll even give you a few ideas of what to get. C'mon, that's almost too easy, so you better get shopping.

Books

David Sedaris: Me Talk Pretty One Day

David Sedaris is the kind of author whose wit you would envy, if only you didn't enjoy it so damn much. Though all of his books are fantastic, this one, which is a collection of short stories about his life, covering everything from awkward classroom moments to his hijinks when he moves to France, is be-

yond amazing. It's the perfect holiday break read, since a fair amount of the stories are about Sedaris' crazy family, so give it as a gift to someone who can empathize with some wildly off-kilter kin.

Megan Nicolay Generation T: 108 Ways to transform a T-shirt

The title pretty much says it all — this is a cute how-to book about cutting up old T-shirts and turning them into anything from a halter top to a frilly skirt.

The best gifting plan for this one is to get the book, and then add a Salvation Army purchased T-shirt or two, so that your friend can explore her inner *Project Runway* immediately.

Tom Wolfe: Anything

Plain and simple: if you have any friends who haven't already read something by one of the best modern writers, do them a major life favor and wrap one of Wolfe's books in that Santa-covered wrapping paper.

Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test is a good choice for someone who loves the 1960s, or *I Am Charlotte Simmons* (one of Wolfe's forays into fiction writing) gives an interesting perspective of Wolfe's immersion into our generation's college experience, so hit up the new Barnes & Noble.

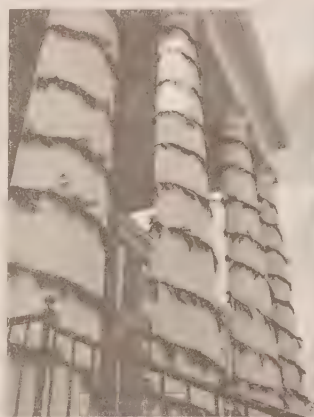
Games

True Colors

Why not indulge someone's inner child with a good ol' board game for big kids? *True Colors* is basically a game of "what do my friends think of me, really?" Without going into the rules too much, the point of this game is to anonymously select which of your fellow game players would be the most likely to do certain things, like snoop on naked sunbathing neighbors, or be the weirdest child. Then you tally up the votes and reveal who "won." It sounds a little mean-spirited, but it actually turns out to be funny. It's a little obscure, so you might have to do an internet search for this one, instead of just walking into a toy store.

The Sims 2

This is the gift to give to someone who loves to procrastinate because it's the ultimate time-waster. Plus, its roots stem back to *SimCity*, the most coveted game of elementary school computer class. If you aren't already familiar with it, in this computer game, you create little virtual people called Sims, and then you control every aspect of their lives, ranging from decorating their house, to making out, to working towards job promotions and

JOHN BERGREN/NEWS-LETTER
Gilman Garlands welcome the holidays.

everything in between. It might sound like a weird concept, but anyone who tries this game becomes an instant fan, so this gift is a guaranteed success.

Clothing

For boys: anything from <http://www.dirtyoldshirt.com>

It seems like T-shirts with ironic sayings or puns are never going to fade into fashion obscurity, so you might as well embrace it — for better or worse — and help add to one of your friend's collections.

Aside from having an awesome company name, Dirty Old Shirt has a bunch of T-shirts with slogans that allude to vintage pop culture (like "Never trust a big butt and a smile," from Bel Biv DeVoe lyrics) and a few politically-oriented ones (like "Blue state proud," in a baseball jersey font).

For girls: A thermal shirt from <http://www.delias.com>

Funkier than a sweater, and more wallet-friendly than a boutique purchase, the Delia's thermal shirts are just offbeat enough to be cool. They are available in a variety of patterns, including owls, skulls or hearts — one of the choices is bound to be adored by your gift recipient. If you buy two or more of 'em online, you get a discount, so stock up for a few of the girls on your gift list.

Holiday Themed

Edible Candy Cane Shotglasses (available at <http://www.urbanoutfitters.com>)

They cost less than \$10, are universally enjoyable, and are just little bit kitschy. In other words, it's the perfect Secret Santa or Hanukkah Helper gift. Oh, and you get bonus friend points if you stick a little bottle of something 'somethin' to keep the candy cane shot glasses company.

Sufjan Stevens: Songs for Christmas

Ok, so maybe a Christmas music CD is not particularly a unique gift idea, but one by Sufjan Stevens sure is. The three volume collection contains familiar classics with Sufjan's own twist, like "Silent Night" and "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!" and fantastic original songs like "Come on! Let's Boogie to the Elf Dancel" or "That was the Worst Christmas Ever."

The songs are so beautiful that you're bound to hear the lucky recipient of this gift still humming "O Holy Night" in June.

No matter the recipient, you can find an appropriate and unique gift. Don't settle for less.

This winter's hottest toys for girls and boys

By **LAUREN STRELEC**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

In a recent episode of *South Park*, Eric Cartman freezes his body in a snowbank, with cryogenic aspirations of decreasing the time until the release of Wii. Providing more than a few good laughs, this episode illustrates that kids today are consumers, wanting and expecting expensive digital gifts, like Nintendo's latest gaming console.

Arguably, the trend in children's toys to be increasingly digitized, animated and flashy is a negative shift away from traditional, cordless counterparts. When it comes to gift lists, this consideration should be left up to whoever is "checking it twice."

By this time in early December, many wish lists have been made and preliminary statistics of "hot toys" are out. Including a mix of video games, Barbie dolls and the latest Tickle Me Elmo, early reports suggest a fusion of tradition and technology in this year's popular toys.

Mega toy store Toys 'R Us, sums up the seasons "must haves" in a list of 15 play things. For \$70, shoppers can procure one of the most surprising top slots, Toyquest's Blue Man Group Percussion Tubes. In the style of the captivating and popular

pirates, giant sharks or a world atlas for children.

Buying books for children is often guided by the age and gender of the gift-receiving child. To make assumptions, it is possible, buy highly unlikely your thirteen year old male cousin would enjoy a book on princesses.

Gender and age considerations are not always as clear for toys. While many, like this year's digital camera come in two colors, the gender appeal of toys is

COURTESY OF [HTTP://AMAZON.COM](http://amazon.com)
Vtech's Nitro is just like mom and dad's.

not as simple as pink and blue. Don't assume your little brother is going to be pumped for a dragon slaying video game over a 3D puzzle.

If you have questions about the gender-specificity of a gift, go for something generic, like a chemistry set or snowcone maker.

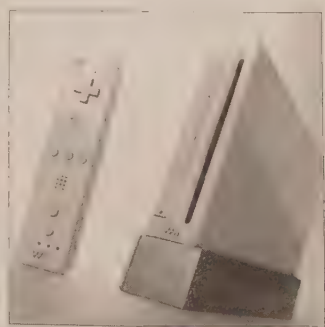
With so many options, statistics and predictions, it is hard for kids and consumers not to get swayed into gift-buying. So what are kids really going to get this holiday season?

Katie Thorpe, a senior with two young siblings, sheds a little light on gift-list reality in revealing some presents likely to be found under her family tree this year.

Her four-year-old sister Alison is "the kind of girl you can take into a toy store and leave without buying anything."

At the same time she "loves anything princess and makeup-oriented." As for her 10-year-old brother Brian, "He already has everything like an iPod and PSP and likes things that are basketball and sports oriented." So what do you do for the kid who has it all?

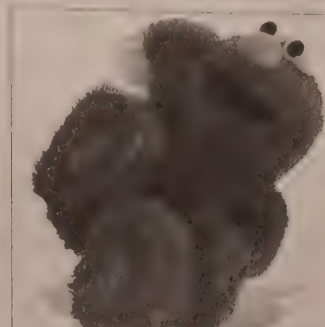
"For his birthday, I got Brian a Grow-A-Frog kit," Thorpe said.

COURTESY OF [HTTP://HTTP://WII.WILUS.COM](http://http://wii.wilus.com)
Nintendo's Wii is played with a wand.

"Which he was really excited about." So much cooler than sea monkeys.

Whether kids want a paint set, robotic pooch or magician's wand, this year, remember the fun in giftgiving. Especially with children, the giver is often recognized as more important than the gift.

Unless, of course, that gift attains the status of the supertoy. In recognition of the Tickle Me Elmo craze 10 years ago, Fisher-Price has released T.M.X., or Tickle Me Extreme. If history repeats itself on this one, get ready for bidding wars and mayhem in the toy store near you.

COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.KIRKLAND.COM](http://www.kirkland.com)
Tickle Me Elmo was a 1996 sensation.COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.LAPTOPMAG.COM](http://www.laptopmag.com)
This year's TMX is, apparently, extreme.

The pros and cons of regifting presents

BY **SARAH ADDISON**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Even though such comedians as Jerry Seinfeld and Jim Gaffigan joke about giving away unwanted gifts you receive to someone else, regifting should be no laughing matter.

Yet, in a *Seinfeld* episode the character dentist Tim Whatley gives Jerry a label-maker, the "Label Baby Jr.," which Elaine originally gave him, and is then admonished behind his back. Meanwhile, Jim Gaffigan in his *Beyond the Pale* CD said, "Did you ever get a candle for a gift? Hey, thanks. You know I have electricity, right? Now I know what I'm giving you next year."

However, regifting can be a touchy topic. Generally, people don't want to be known as "regifters." Holidays or special occasions are supposed to be times to choose thoughtful presents for those one cares about or one is obliged to get something for.

You might receive a present you have no use for and then think that it'd be the perfect gift for someone else, especially if you don't know what else to get them or don't feel like spending money on something they could possibly regift. Is it so wrong to regift? Most would say or at least think, "Certainly not," depending on the circumstances, but there are several dos and don'ts you must take care to follow in order to adhere to proper regifting etiquette.

The most important and obvious rule is to not give the gift back to the person who gave it to you. If you do, that could end up being the biggest mistake of your life, tears will be shed, maybe even friends will be lost, or, at the least, sheer embarrassment and shame will be felt by all involved.

Rule number two is not to regift to someone who knows the



CONOR KEVIT/NEWS-LETTER

The holiday season may be fast-paced, but is that any reason to re-use presents?

original giver of the gift because they'll know the gift is second-hand. That scenario could end up equally unpleasant as the first. Keep in mind that you shouldn't regift in front of someone who knows you're regifting either, unless they have sworn "cross their heart, hope to die, stick and needle in their eye" not to tell your secret or else you run the risk of having your conniving exposed.

Though it may seem obvious to some, the first-time regifter should remember to remove cards and other clues that would hint at the gift's reuse. Make sure the wrapping paper, card, etc. are holiday appropriate because you don't want someone with a spring birthday to receive a Merry Christmas or Happy Hanukkah card, especially if it says it's from someone other than you. Also, how mortifying would it be to have the recipient open the card, only to see the card addressed to you, instead of them! On the other hand, if the recipient has the same name as you, you just might be able to pull it off with the same card, as long as there's no personalized message inside.

Rewrapping a gift is also a worthwhile precaution to take, not just because the wrapping paper may not be season-appropriate, but also in case the person suspects that you're regifting and has the wrapping paper dusted for multiple sets of finger prints.

One last "no-no" is using the item and then regifting it when it's no longer new. This includes giving partially used gift certificates, items you've owned for a long time or opened gifts. Regifting older items is tasteless and unacceptable, that is unless you want to prevent any more gift-giving between you and the other person in the future and ever after.

One viable alternative for getting rid of unwanted gifts would be to donate them to charity if you want to keep your friends but not their presents. Even if that doesn't mean one less holiday purchase, you won't feel as guilty since it's easier to conceal.

You could also try selling the item on eBay or other similar online marketplace Web sites. Just check to make sure there's no chance the original gifter can find your online auctions.

FEATURES

More than food: Latkes take on hamantashen

By MAX MCKENNA

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Being a gentile, I've rarely had the opportunity to sample many traditional Jewish foods. Sure, when I was younger and we'd study Hanukkah in grade school, I'd have my fair share of amateur latkes, and I tried matzo once or twice at a classmate's house (though never in soup form). And today I'm a fan, of course, of convenience store bagels (with plenty of schmeer) and the occasional IHOP blintz. But my knowledge of Jewish food doesn't extend much further than that. When it comes down to the authentic stuff, I won't lie, I'm a total pisher. I've never had tzimmes, or even seen gefilte fish. I've never known the joy (or horror) of having my mother feed me piping hot latke after piping hot latke. Nor have I ever had anything made with schmaltz. Until a couple days ago, I had never even heard of hamantashen.

Nevertheless, I cast my culinary inexperience aside Monday and attended the first annual Hopkins Great Debate: Latkes vs. Hamantash, in the banquet hall of Charles Commons. To say the least, I felt slightly out of place. When asked at the T-shirt booth which side I'd be supporting, I was met with stern glances for my indecisiveness. I didn't want to admit to my greenness, and that I had no strong opinions either way. "Can't I just support both?" I asked. I was told no, and that I had to ally myself with one of the dishes. So I took a Hamantash T-shirt, because they had my size. I then sat on the Latke side of the room, to stay neutral.

The lines were drawn through crowd, and as they arrived to the event, to an overture of "Eye of the Tiger" and Adam Sandler's "Hanukkah Song," they quickly took their seats on their favored sides. Master of Ceremonies Steven David kicked off the debate promptly at 7:30 p.m. with opening remarks on the history of the Great Debate and on its contenders.

The Great Debate, it turns out, is an ongoing argument. Although sponsored by our own Hopkins Hillel and JSA, the event, by no means, begins and ends at Hopkins. In fact, the Great Debate has been up in the air since 1946, when the first debate was held at the University of Chicago as a fun way to cultivate a sense of community between Jewish faculty and students. Since then, colleges all over the country have been hosting their own Latke-Hamantash debates, and everyone, from the lowliest dinner tables to the upper echelons of academia, has been



MAX MCKENNA/NEWS-LETTER

The student band Adam-Christian Brotherhood used their musical talents to sway audiences to their side of the hamantashen.

considering (and sometimes over-considering) this highly disputed competition—one professor from the University of Pennsylvania went so far as to write an article analyzing the feminist implications of each food.

The latke, for those of you even less familiar with it than myself, is, essentially, a potato pancake. It is a concept, as computer science professor and latke supporter Yair Amir pointed out, that exists all over the world. Potatoes are either shredded or grated, depending on personal preference, and then combined with a binder, such as egg, and onions, or spinach, or cheese for flavor. The Polish call it *placki*, the Swiss call it *rösti*, and the Swedish call it *räkor*. To the

French, the latke is a *galette de pommes de terre*, and to the Australians it's a fried fish side dish. And to us Americans, it's hash browns.

The latke is traditionally eaten at Hanukkah, a holiday that David summarized rather eloquently: "They tried to kill us, we won, let's eat!" This is in contrast to the hamantash, typically eaten during Purim. Both foods have strong connections to their respective holidays. The frying oil of the latke represents the miraculous oil that burned for eight days, while the hamantash, which means "Haman's pockets," signifies the triangular hat worn by Haman, a nobleman from biblical times who attempted to kill all the Jews in Persia and whose defeat is

celebrated with Purim (the crowd booed Haman at his mention). In some translations, hamantashen means "Haman's ears," giving the little fruit-filled cookie some pretty graphic connotations.

The debate proper kicked off with an opening statement by Marc Caplan, a professor of Yiddish literature and language and speaker for the Hamantash side (the Hamantash side began by virtue of a hamantash toss). The debate was structured such that each of the four speakers was allotted five minutes to make his or her point with brief open rebuttals allowed at the end, and Caplan made ample use of his

CONTINUED ON PAGE B4

Circle K brings smiles to Baltimore schools

By FRANCESCA PERETTI

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Children all over the world eagerly anticipate Christmas with hopes of receiving their favorite toy from Santa Claus on Dec. 25. A lot of us enjoy the privilege of giving and receiving gifts for the holidays; however, the majority of the children at the Dr. Rayner Browne Elementary School, in one of the poorest areas of the city, cannot look forward to Christmas day with the same excitement. This is where Circle K, a volunteer community service organization here at Hopkins, comes in.

This is the third consecutive year that Circle K has assumed the role of Santa to provide each of the 210 students at the school with the gift of their choice. After raising over \$3,000, they buy, sort, wrap and deliver gifts at a school-wide assembly in late December, where they also read and act out a children's book.

The project, "Bring a Smile to a Child," has had huge success in the past and provides great joy for the children living in such a poverty-stricken area. "The members of JHU Circle K feel that holiday gifts are important part of American culture and make people feel happy and part of society. Consequently, we want to ensure that each child has the experience of receiving something that they wish for," president of Circle K, Kara Pappas said.

Fundraising is obviously an extremely important aspect of the program: Without donations, the operation would not be possible. The leaders explained, "The first step is fundraising, which occurs from October to December. Thus far, we have been grateful to receive a generous grant from the France-Merrick Foundation.

In addition, we have put up change cups at locations around campus (particularly The Depot and Starbucks) and written letters to local toy stores." On-campus events, such as "Photos with Santa" with John Bader, dean of academic programs and advising, and David Draper dressed as Santa Claus on Dec. 4 and Dec. 7 at Levering and Nolan's, respectively, play a large role in the fundraising as well.

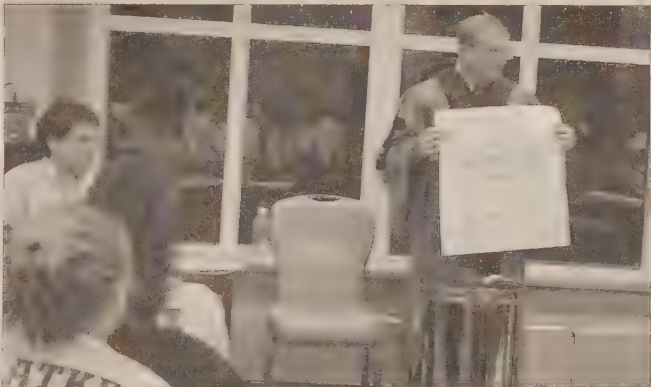
The leaders continued to explain the process. "We traveled to Wal-Mart to buy all 210 gifts on Dec. 2 and are going to wrap them on Wednesday, Dec. 13. We will be delivering the gifts on Dec. 19 at Dr. Rayner Browne." On the day of the assembly the group will dress up as Santa's elves and act out the holiday story, *Olive, the Other Reindeer*.

Although the project involves a lot of work for all of Circle K, the effort is completely fulfilling. "Watching the smiles spread across the children's faces when they realize that yes, all of those gifts are for them, makes it all worth it," Pappas said.

Working on this project has enlightened the members of the organization to the fact that in areas of Baltimore City "many of the children's parents do not consider school a priority; they move frequently and do not encourage their children to attend class," Pappas said.

So keep your eyes open around campus in order to contribute to this very good cause and be able to "Bring a Smile to a Child" for the holidays. Participation would allow these children to enjoy the same privileges that the rest of us have, for at least this part of the year.

For more information on Circle K or to contact members of the organization visit: <http://www.jhu.edu/circle-k/>.



MAX MCKENNA/NEWS-LETTER

Professor Steven David tries to win over students with props at the Great Debate.

Things I've Learned: Professor Fogel

I'm from Cleveland, Ohio. I lived with my mom and dad and I'm the oldest of three kids. I have a younger brother and sister. I went to a public school that was very racially mixed. I was pretty into music; I played the saxophone and I was in a local rock band. We went around and played in different jazz clubs. I thought about doing something with that when I was older, but decided I wasn't good enough. It was more like a big hobby. I also did sports. I wrestled and ran track and field. I did the long distance races.

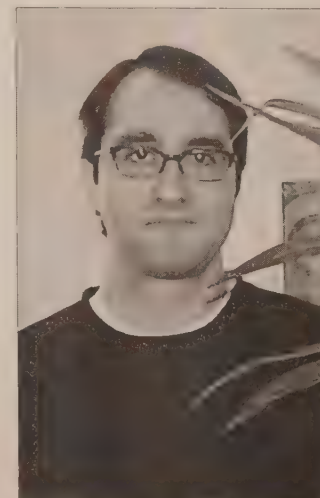
I hated high school, but I liked watching how the social network of junior and senior high school worked and how people interacted with each other. I was interested in this from a psychological perspective and this included my own reactions. The way I acted was interesting to me, too. High school made me more aware of psychology and was a big part of why I ended up studying it. I kind of thought that way naturally and as much as I know it's a cliché, I liked the idea of helping other people.

For me, college was fun. I went to University of Wisconsin-Madison, which was a unique school in that it was academically good, but also considered a party school. I guess you could say students could have their cake and eat it, too, if they could juggle. I was a psychology major and received my bachelor's from there. In college, I didn't stop looking at what was going on around me.

Madison was an ultra-liberal place and I went there during what I would call the birth of the political correctness movement. I partly liked that and partly hated it. It was good that people were getting at important topics and furthering justice and equality. However the self-righteousness and pretentiousness of some bugged me, too. Gender roles were a huge issue—the feminist movement or a continuation of the feminist movement, and racial equality. This

is topical given what recently happened here with Sigma Chi. While I was at Madison there was a similar frat incident where all the brothers wore black face and this was in a Jewish frat. It definitely caused an uproar on campus, but in their case the frat lost their charter.

Anyway, I put myself through school; I worked as a cook at a restaurant and I met a lot of my friends through there. Many students worked there. In college I continued to play with a band and I brought my saxophone and went to blues jams.



COURTESY OF

[HTTP://WWW.JHU.EDU/CCCENTER](http://www.jhu.edu/cccenter)
In addition to teaching, Professor Fogel also works at the Counseling Center on campus.

I'm married and I've been married for about three years. I have a one-year-old daughter. My wife is an economist who works in D.C. and we live right outside D.C. My wife and I met through my sister. My wife was good friends with my sister because they worked together at Berkeley in California. They moved around here at close to the same time. I think it's safe to say there was immediate chemistry. Before I met her, I was interested and intrigued because I had heard a lot about her.

A lot of my free time is spent with my family. With my young daughter, a lot of it is basic care-

taking things at this point.

My passions outside my family are music and movies. My music tastes run the gamut, though I mostly like independent rock and jazz. I'd say movies run the gamut, too; I see independent films, but I'm happy to see blockbuster if they're also good.

When I was growing up my favorite band was The Who. In junior high and high school I listed to *Tommy* for pretty much three years straight. I'd say they got me through school. I also like the Velvet Underground, Sonic Youth and Miles Davis.

Before working here I worked at a couple other counseling centers, one at Virginia Tech and one in Michigan. It's safe to say that of all the places I've worked, Hopkins is the most stressed, but the students are also the most intelligent and thoughtful. The pluses in regard to this are that it's rewarding, challenging and interesting to work with them. The minuses are that it can be super intense in terms of quantity and quality. My wife doesn't even bother asking me if I want to go out on Friday nights anymore because I'm so exhausted from my week. Overall, I think I'm very lucky to counsel and teach because I love coming to work. They say the ultimate job is something you'd do for free and this is how it is for me.

I took off six years between undergrad and grad school. The main reason was that my dad was a chemist and had a midlife crisis where he left his job and went back to school for something different. This instilled a fear in me to make sure I knew what I wanted to do before I got into it.

During this time I was a construction worker in Seattle, I worked as a cook in a fine dining restaurant, I worked in a boys' prison, I worked in a group home for developmentally retarded adults, and I almost went back to school to be a physical therapist, CONTINUED ON PAGE B5

Cosplay hobby realizes anime fantasies

By WILLIAM PARSHALK

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Imagine a world of neon hair, ridiculous and unreal weapons, fantastical armor and costume clothing that is anything but what the average person would deem "normal." This is the world of cosplay, a hobby that has slowly and quietly captured the devotion of people across America.

Cosplay, a contraction of the words "costume" and "play," is a hobby that has been imported from Japan, where participants dress up as their favorite anime

and video game characters, go to events to meet like-minded cosplayers and take a plethora of photos.

In Japan enthusiasts dress up and regularly congregate in public locations. The hobby's popularity in the U.S. goes as far back as the early 1980s and has thrived thanks to annual anime and science fiction convention circuits.

One of the biggest cosplay-friendly conventions, Otakon, happens to occur every summer right here in Baltimore's Inner Harbor, making our fair city an epicenter of cosplay activity.

It was Otakon that first drew in long-time local cosplayer Elizabeth Schram.

"It was the summer of 2001 when someone told me about a convention happening in downtown Baltimore. I figured, what the heck! I arrived at Otakon and was floored to see all these people and many of them dressed up as their favorite character."

Julie Maxwell, a freshman at Ursinus College, belongs to a group of cosplayers called Mercury Rose. She also considers Otakon the starting point for her fascination with cosplay. "I always wanted to try [cosplay], but never knew where and how to get started ... We cosplayed at Otakon 2004 and have been cosplaying since."

The most important step to cosplaying is choosing an anime or video game character that suits the person. Most, like sophomore Cindy Ye, don't limit themselves to just one character.

"I dress up as many different characters. Elite cosplayers usually make two to three costumes per convention. My favorite costume that I've made so far is Yuna from *Final Fantasy X*," Ye said.

From conception, though, the real fun comes with simply being around other cosplayers. "It's more fun to work on outfits with other people. It's also much more fun to cosplay a group from an anime rather than one character, CONTINUED ON PAGE B5



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CINDY YE AND [HTTP://HAVEN.JOUEB.COM](http://HAVEN.JOUEB.COM)
Sophomore Cindy Ye displays her rendition of anime character Freya from Chobits.

FEATURES

Championing an annually-loved ethnic food

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3
even going a little over his limit. The greatness of the hamantash, he said, was due to its variability. "The hamantash is the culinary equivalent of jazz. The latke, on the other hand is invariable."

The latke supporters refuted this argument, claiming the hamantash's showiness to be extravagant, aristocratic and elitist. "The latke is democratic," Lester Spence, a professor in the political science department, said. "It's a working class dish. The food of the people."

Following Spence's remarks was a brief "half-time" with music courtesy of the Adam-Christian Brotherhood. The band revealed their alliances to the hamantash in song, with the original piece "Latkeland."

Paula Burger, the "token WASP," as she called herself, implemented a highly scientific rationale behind her pro-hamantash argument. "The hamantash," she said, "is efficient, durable, healthy, versatile, relevant and significant." Burger's claims were bolstered by strong, visual evidence, including diagrams of lunch-box space efficiency, complete with mathematical equations and even the physical destruction of a latke as proof of its fragility.

Amir undoubtedly put forth the most compelling argument for Hopkins students. He placed the foods back in their holiday contexts, and effectively brought the debate to another level: Hanukkah vs. Purim. Or as he put it, "vacation versus midterms." The entire room cheered, and some former hamantash loyalists could be seen discretely changing sides. As if to seal the latke's victory, he added, "Besides, if you eat too many poppy hamantash, you'll fail a drug test."

After rebuttals from both sides, the winner was decided by applause-o-meter. Though hamantash supporters had been far more vocal throughout the evening, the latke-ites let loose at the end, achieving victory for the potato pancake.

Following the debate, the audience was invited to snack on the two contenders. I relished the

opportunity to compare the two dishes, and maybe finally form some strong opinions on traditional Jewish cuisine. They both had their pros and cons; I found myself very much on the fence.

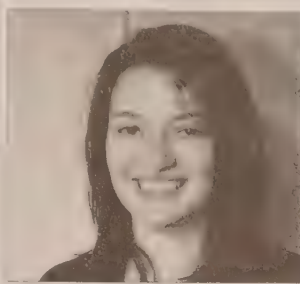
While I was unable to make up my mind amid a sea of such staunch devotees, I was not alone

in my irresolution. David told me that he was mediator for the debate because of his lack of preference. "On a cold night like this, I like a latke," he said. "Other times, I just want cake."

The debate didn't help me come to a conclusion about traditional foods, but it did give me the chutz-

pah to explore the realm of Jewish cuisine beyond stale bagels and corned beef. Any culinary field where there exists such disagreement over a pancake and a cookie is worth checking out. I'm looking forward to this Hanukkah season. I'm dying to try a big bowl of tzimmes, whatever that is.

HOT AT HOPKINS



- IRINA USACH-
Hometown:
San Francisco, Calif.
Major: Biology and French
Year: Freshman

For this Hopkins newbie, it's straight to the point: The AMRs are what turn her on. She cites,

Have you been noticing the lustworthy anatomy of a certain someone? Make finals week a little more bearable by having something better than physics to study. Nominate that sweetie for Hot at Hopkins! E-mail JHUFeatures@hotmail.com.

Don't let his towering stature scare you — at 6' 2", this football player's bark is worse than his bite. Citing his worst flaw as being "quiet" and "flossing" as his pet peeve, it's clear that this boy's got some smooth moves.

The most romantic thing he's ever encountered was a "custom made mix CD with personalized cover for Valentine's Day." It doesn't take much to please him.

His ideal date would go something like this: "She buys me dinner, pays for a movie and tucks me in at night." How soon after the first date will this boy be all tucked in? With "Let's Do It Again" by the Staple Singers wafting in the back-

"the noises, the smells, the tastes ... mmm." It takes a lot for a woman to publicly declare a love like that, but as a Hopkins Cheerleader, declarations of spirit are not uncharted territory.

The brown-eyed beauty describes herself at her worst as "sometimes a little shallow," but it's her "arrogance ... I mean confidence" that makes her the best.

Get the party started with "Bring Out the Freak in You" while dining at the FFC and "maybe a walk through Gilman." From there the ideal date would include "gazing into each other's eyes under the fluorescent lights of the Hut." Real classy.

If you're into cheese and Ben and Jerry's ice-cream, look out! This chick names the state of

ground, this Fabio declares, "Although I play defense in football, I try to score as fast and as often as possible." Ow, ow. What sort of guy gets the touchdown?

She has "nice eyes, smile and teeth," and green eyes are a major turn-on. But the gals he will walk right by are those who have facial hair and "jelly rolls with belly rings." Keep that in mind before strutting your stuff.

Listing his worst characteristic as, "I nickname almost everyone," don't think that he's all that suave. His most embarrassing dating experience involves the full monty. "I mooned a girl on a date. I thought it was funny, but she didn't." What a shame!

Vermont as her biggest turn-off. Go figure. However, if you "own more juicy couture than [her], have two racks of clothes under the bed, listen to the Backstreet Boys and Mandy Moore, are Asian and from somewhere outside Fresno, Calif.," then you're the man of her dreams!

But before you think that this girl's it's at: beware. She claims, "If you haven't tasted pickles and cream cheese, you haven't lived." Variety is the spice of life, and this gal is cayenne pepper!

When it comes to scoring, a first date need not happen, but she's a romantic at heart. "I once gave a boyfriend one of those tear-off calendars and wrote something sweet on every page." Come on, does it get any better?



- KENNETH (DUKE) HATTNER III -
Hometown:
Baltimore, Md.
Major: Business
Year: Freshman

Binge drinking is not a flawless aphrodisiac

Here in college, many students occasionally decide to swear off drinking. There is a common cycle that leads to such a declaration. The weekend begins with the determination to turn oneself into a train wreck, seemingly a good idea at the time. Such an initiative is usually accomplished, complete with such embarrassment that the declaration to remain sober and abstinent is the next logical conclusion. After about two weeks of staying dry, that undeniable urge to make a bad decision takes control and the cycle repeats.

A variety of poor choices can be made due to the lack of clear judgment from shot-gunning too beers. The most common experience from drinking is beer goggles. Most everyone will, at least once, hook up with someone way below their standards due to their inebriated state. They'll be squealing to friends about how hot he is while drunkenly reapplying lip gloss in the bathroom, but in the morning shuddering at the thought of having made out with Shrek. This humiliating experience is a rite of passage, so just accept fate.

Alcohol can lead down paths you never thought existed. While this may seem frightening, it will usually make an excellent story. During the summer following freshman year, I found myself at a party with a group of people I had never met. After a few drinks, I was much friendlier and began flirting with this one guy. He was moving uneasily through the room while grabbing onto chairs and people to steady himself. But he was cute and I was quite tipsy myself. We tried having a conver-

sation, but when I asked him why he was traveling to Boston the following day, his response was "Uh, what? I don't ... remember." Again, in my inebriated state, I didn't think twice about it.

One friend motioned for me to talk to her. "There's something you need to know," she urged. My other friend quickly interjected, "Ashley, he's blind!" "Don't say that too loud!" my first friend warned. "No, don't worry. He can't hear me — he's blind!" he replied with his drunken logic.

The discovery of his sight impairment certainly explained a lot. Later I found out that he was going to Boston to train with his new seeing-eye dog, but this didn't prevent me from making out with him. Or attempting to, since he couldn't really find my mouth.

It required grabbing his face and guiding him.

Are these mortifying experiences avoidable? The simplest solution is to control your drinking. Blacking out every weekend can put you in dangerous situations like having anonymous or unprotected sex. You can also depend on your friends to keep you from going home with the wrong person. Or you can always try planning ahead; if you know that you may drunk dial an ex later in the evening, it might be a good idea to delete his phone number. Simply entering his name as "Richard Don't Call!" will not work.

Such experiences could easily dishearten you, but remember that there is always the chance to have a hilarious, unusual sexual exploit. When else are you going to have the chance to force yourself on a gay guy or have sex with someone in an Italian piazza?



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FEATURES

Prof. Fogel reflects on life, memories and time at JHU

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3
but changed my mind.

One memory that I have was at my construction job, which I started just after I finished school at Madison. There had just been a rally for American Indian rights, but at my first day at work everyone was eating lunch and complaining about how they couldn't hunt, but Indians could. Apparently, they had a law protecting them. This moment was very eye-opening because I went from a liberal environment to one with a far right conservative viewpoint.

I'll give you another good story from the boys' prison. The kids ranged in age from nine to 18 and they would have been in real prison had they been of age. They were murderers, drug offenders and rapists — we're talking gang-bangers in some cases and nine and 10-year-olds that had killed people. There was even a 17 year old that had done a contract hit on someone. What were especially depressing were all the sex offenders. Literally every kid who was a sex offender had been sexually abused himself.

When I worked in the group home I also learned some all-time great euphemisms. The name we called to deal with developmentally disabled residents when they were out of control was "forced relaxation." Basically, this meant staff members put them on the floor and someone sat on each of their appendages until they calmed down. This taught me that when people lose control and the adrenaline is flooding, they can be really strong. I understood more about when a baby is trapped under a car and a mother can miraculously lift the car a little to pull the baby out. These are feats of strength that couldn't be done otherwise.

From teaching and counseling Hopkins students, I've learned that they are very driven, ambi-

tious, motivated, intense, intelligent and questioning. Moreover, they are pretty good BS detectors. If you're not being real with them, they'll know. They are more sensitive to feeling or being patronized because they're accomplished intelligent people who don't want to be talked down to. This means I have to work harder and make more of an effort than I might have to elsewhere because if I'm not prepared as a lecturer, for example, they'll know and call you on it. The class I teach at Hopkins I've taught at other places, but the sophistication of questions here makes me understand the material at an even deeper level.

These jobs collectively pulled me back in to grad school. I learned how low the ceiling is for something with a B.A. in psych and I wanted to do things that most interested me and would allow me to most help others. At least an M.A. or a Ph.D. is needed to therapy or to have independence and autonomy in the field. However, therapists are one of the few jobs where you can't shadow people; you can't just go into a session with a therapist. It's more difficult to ask yourself, "Am I going to be good and am I going like it?" Usually you don't find this out until grad school.

From marriage and fatherhood I've learned that both have been rewarding experiences for me. To be an effective husband and father you don't keep the same level of independence and autonomy has you have in the past. I've become a more flexible person and less self-centered. I'm making sacrifices, but the intimacy involved in being a husband and a dad outweighs any sacrifices that those entail, at least in my experience.

Doug Fogel works at the Counseling Center and is an adjunct professor for the Psychology Department.

—Interview by Sarah Addison

Anime groupies unite with fellow fans at Cosplay

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3
and the group is recognized more easily than a single character," Kyera Giannini, another member of Mercury Rose, said.

"If I wasn't cosplaying, I would have never met all the friends I have now or have the chance to meet new people that have such a defined, similar interest," Schram said.

By far the biggest part is going to conventions. Conventions usually last several days, and include various anime and costume-related contests, skits and performances, different panels and workshops, dances and live entertainment. They draw in people from all over the U.S., both cosplayers and non-cosplayers alike, and they tend to be the main arenas for many cosplay-based performance troupes.

"The larger conventions tend to be more of showcases for the cosplayers, though there are plenty of panels and events that are great to attend," Mayumi Yuy, the third member of Mercury Rose, said. "At the smaller conventions we have more time to visit the panels and events ..."

"I love walking around conventions and having people come up and wanting to take pictures of me and my friends. I feel like a movie star!" Maxwell said.

With all of the elaborate costumes, though, cosplaying can evoke a wide spectrum of reactions, from the positive and encouraging to the unfortunately negative.

"I think the people who I went to high school with would have found it weird, but the people at college seem to think it's a cool hobby, even if they're not into it," Yuy said.

"Cosplay is nerdy ... It's being comfortable with who you are," Schram said. "There's always going to be that person who will poke fun at what they do not understand. So be it. Life is too short to worry about the faults of others."

Negative reactions aside, many responses are positive and can be very gratifying to cosplayers. "My favorite memory was when a little girl and



COURTESY OF MERCURY ROSE

The ladies of Mercury Rose made costumes and props to be characters from the video game Soul Caliber at this year's Otakon.

her mom walked by when we were the Magic Knights. She stopped suddenly and grabbed her mom's hand and said, 'Mom, look, it's the Magic Knights!' in a whispery, awed voice," Giannini said.

The next big upcoming cosplay event on the east coast is Akiba Fest, scheduled for Dec. 27 in Springfield, Va. Planned are a slew of contests and performances including live music from Japanese pop bands Unicorn Table, Mai and more. Cash prizes will be given out to the best costumes.

With all the hubbub of a regular semester's workload, many fans look forward to events like Akiba Fest. "I used to run east coast conventions from Otakon to Katsukon to AnimeUSA. My current school schedule and other things prevent me from attending most of the conventions right now, but I do plan to go to more next year," Ye said.

"What keeps me coming back to these events is the people," Schram said. "I love the craziness of the dealer's room, the

new anime to watch, spot the latest games and see Japanese artists that I wouldn't normally see outside a convention."



COURTESY OF ELIZABETH SCHRAUM

Local cosplayer Elizabeth Schraum dressed as Miaka Yuuki from Fushigi Yuugi.

Reigning champion secures crown

Liz Gilbert wins Pete's Grille Pancake Eating Contest for second time in a row, sets new record

By BROOKE NEVILS
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Hopkins senior and actress Liz Gilbert — tall, thin, and striking — doesn't look like your typical competitive eater.

Having recently starred in *The Marriage of Bette and Boo* in the Merrick Barn this past weekend, in addition to competing in Tuesday's "Hopkins Top Model" competition, Gilbert is also the two-time champion and record holder of the Pete's Grille pancake eating contest.

"Liz is gorgeous," senior Michelle Miano, who also competed in the November competition, said, "but she has an incredible competitive streak. Once she puts her mind to something, she's doing it."

Even Gilbert agrees. "I can be really intense when I set my mind to something," she said. "I worked at a discotheque in Spain, and I would charge through crowds of people with my tray. They called me *El Toro*."

Gilbert first won the competition during her sophomore year, when she set the record for most pancakes eaten by a female in one hour — 12 1/2.

"It was totally impulsive," Gilbert said. "I had been sick the week before and drinking a lot of water, so my stomach stretched. I don't know how I did it, but until anybody beats it, I get free breakfast."

The following year, Gilbert again competed in the contest — but tragedy struck at pancake number nine.

"She was winning the girls contest, but she was trying to beat the boys," Miano said. "She was on pancake nine, and she threw up. She lost the money but kept the title."

Gilbert's strategy is simple: Drink a lot of water beforehand, eat as much as you can in the first 20 minutes before your body registers that it's full, and then pace yourself.

"I use a lot of my acting techniques — breathing, meditation to stay centered — because it's like a performance. It's not like eating for taste. It's engorging. It's like sprinting and then hanging on."

According to Miano, "she

dips the pancakes in water and scrunches them up so they take up less space in her stomach."

"This year, I decided I was only going to eat as many as I needed to win, and I only ate 10 1/2," she said. "I regained my crown,

I don't see why you can't go out and do something excessive every once and a while."

As an actress, Gilbert has always been aware of body stereotypes: She runs constantly and watches her diet, but she also



COURTESY OF LIZ GILBERT

Liz Gilbert and her friends celebrate the defense of her title as Pancake Champion.

the record still stands, and I won \$500, which I plan to use to go to Mexico with."

But Gilbert hasn't consumed massive quantities of carbs and starches simply for the money. She has other motivations that she considers far more important.

"There's also all these feminist things I say to myself," Gilbert said. "There are all those girls out there who don't eat: This is for them. The idea of saying to yourself, 'I'm a girl, and I don't need to prove anything by not eating,' is important. I'm a woman and I can eat."

Gilbert, who has also directed a campus production of *The Vagina Monologues*, admits that she has a rebellious streak in her.

"Eating is such a faux-pas for women. Eating and food, for American women, is too big a deal. I like to see people take it less seriously, take their bodies less seriously, and this is something that's emblematic of that," she said.

"[Expletive deleted] it. I don't care if people think I eat a lot. If you keep a regular diet and exercise and feel good about yourself,

loves pancakes.

"I can see how it's funny when someone who's tall and somewhat thin does something like this," she said. "Everybody's self-conscious about something. I think women are beautiful in any sense and shouldn't defer themselves from doing things that are stereotypically unsexy or unfeminine. I think it's important to broaden the boundaries of things people think of as feminine."

There's also an added bonus to the competition: a phenomenal ab workout and an amazing sugar high.

"Your abs pulse and strain when you're digesting your food," Gilbert said. "When you're eating like this, you're using those muscles a lot, and my abs hurt like hell the next day."

"She was a little wobbly walking home," Miano said. "She always comes back afterward, takes a nap, and feels amazing when she wakes up from eating so many carbs."

"It's a huge high," Gilbert said. "I literally feel better than I have in my entire life. But then that night, I'll go ahead and eat dinner. Why not?"



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.NATFILM.DK
Zhang Yimou's *Riding Alone for Thousands of Miles* is one of 2006's film highlights.

You may never have heard of them, but the three movies below are some of the most worthy of 2006: *Shadow Company* is by no means the finest documentary of this or any year, but the film, which documents the presence of private military contractors (a euphemism for mercenaries) in Iraq, remains almost necessary viewing. According to *Shadow Company*, there is one private contractor for every 10 soldiers in Iraq, and the companies employing them do not always act in the interests of the American government or the Iraqi people. The film asks a variety of important ethical questions, most vitally: What are the consequences of surrendering the state monopoly on violence? The documentary's greatest strength, however, lies in its use of footage from the ground in Iraq. It shows the chaos and carnage that the U.S. media, in conjunction with the government, has decided we ought not see.

In a break from his recent action-oriented *Hero* and *House of Flying Daggers*, famed Chinese director Zhang Yimou returns to the more personal, sentimental style of classics like *Raise the Red Lantern* and *To Live*. His newest film is *Riding Alone for Thousands of Miles*, the story of a Japanese fisherman, Gou-ichi Takata (Ken Takakura), who, upon learning of his estranged son's diagnosis of terminal liver cancer, travels to China to film a performance

of an ancient opera with which the younger Takata was enamored. Gou-ichi encounters a variety of obstacles in the process, but so begins his path toward understanding his son. The imagery is gorgeous and the acting understated but effective. In a larger sense, the movie is a paean for reconciliation between China and Japan as well as an idealized vision of Chinese rural life.

Guillermo Del Toro, brother of Benicio and director of the chilling *Devil's Backbone* and less enjoyable Hollywood fare such as the putrid comic adaptation *Hellboy*, writes and directs *Pan's Labyrinth*, the story of a young girl struggling through the aftermath of the Spanish Civil War.

Ivana Baquero is terrific as Ofelia, the child who attempts to come to terms with the brutality of the fascist regime surrounding her by creating a vividly imagined fable. The artistry of the film is nigh breathtaking — the visual effects are outstanding, but not overused as in many recent computer graphics vehicles, and the dark palate lends the movie a palpable air of desperation. The film is, at times, spectacularly violent.

— Simon Waxman

Let's face it: Chances are that we at Hopkins don't have much free time to read books for pleasure. Between class readings, studying and writing papers — not to mention the mad dashes to class — there isn't all that much time to cuddle up with a book on M-level.

I had reviewed John Updike's novel *Terrorist* (Knopf, June 6, 2006), at the beginning of the semester; I recommended it then and I recommend it again now. A tale about the clash of two different cultures, Updike pits an Islamic fundamentalist teenager against his family and community. It might not have been the most hopeful or open-minded book to read, but despite whatever bothersome aspects of the plot are present, Updike's prose makes reading this novel worth it, however unsettling certain sections are. The alarming reality of the world in which his characters exist adds an element of foreboding to the tale, making the reader see the necessity of the existence of a writer like Updike who isn't afraid to portray life as it is.

Is there a secret slowly gnawing at your gut? Or are you just interested in the juicy tidbits of other's lives? *My Secret: A PostSecret Book* by Frank Warren (Regan Books, Oct. 24, 2006) is the answer to your prayers. Sequel to his first book, *PostSecret*, *My Secret* operates on the same model: Strangers mailed the author their deepest secrets through collages of photographs, postcards and letters. But this time around, the souls bared are those of teens and college stu-

dents. Not lacking in the originality of the first book, *My Secret* is fascinating to examine with the gravity of serious secrets coupled with more light-hearted fare. More of a novelty than anything else, this book is an interesting social experiment and a reassuring sign that somebody, somewhere not only has something to say, but someone to listen.

What happens after we graduate college and end up in the real world? Hopkins students grapple with this question on a regular basis.

Such questions jumpstart the action in *The Emperor's Children* by Claire Messud (Knopf, Aug. 29, 2006), a novel about three thirty-somethings trying to get a clue post-9/11 New York City. Marina Thwaite is the daughter of a successful Vietnam-era journalist, who just can't seem to finish her own book about children's fashion. As a result she spends a lot of time doing yoga while living in her parent's lavish Upper West Side apartment. Her two best friends — one a TV producer and the other a freelance critic — fare no better, and the three of them decide to use sex as a means to aggrandize themselves. As a snooty cousin comes and tries to assert his views on the correct course of action, things for these yuppies, understandably, fall apart. Acclaimed for the author's mastery of the narrative technique, *The Emperor's Children* provides comic relief while offering satire of the life that all too soon, some of us will live.

— Heather Barbakoff

A lot of good books came out this year, or were at least finally collected and packaged into one nice volume. *La Perdida* by Jessica Abel is a collection of the entire *La Perdida* series, which tells the tale of an American woman trying to find herself and her heritage in Mexico City. The artwork is great, the storytelling is pretty catchy, and overall it's a very compelling book worth picking up.

Two of the more stand-out books that were released this year were *Ode to Kirihito* by Osamu Tezuka and *The Mourning Star* by Kazimir Strzepak. *Kirihito* is manga-Godfather Tezuka's gripping thriller about a disease that turns humans into dog-beasts, finally translated into English for an American audience. *The Mourning Star* is an incredible post-apocalyptic tale just started early this summer, revolving around a cast of Disney-like creatures coping with the incredibly violent and grim world in which they live one year after a

devastating global catastrophe.

Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic by Alison Bechdel is an amazing autobiography from the author of *Dykes to Watch Out For*. It follows the author's adolescence as she copes with her gay father, who corrupts young boys. Her father's troubles often overshadow Bechdel's own problems as she tries to come to terms with her homosexuality and provide one tense and hard-to-put-down tale.

The latest release from Scott McCloud, author of *Understanding Comics*, is *Making Comics: Storytelling Secrets of Comics, Manga and Graphic Novels*. For anyone who has ever been interested in the comics industry, McCloud dissects the production process with the same skill and wit that he brought to his first comic textbook. He tries to cover all the bases, from writing to drawing to the future of comics on the Internet, and solidifies his position as one of the best observers of the comics medium around.

— William Parschalk



No one should ever get bored in Baltimore. There are more than enough outlets for entertainment in the city if you are willing to look hard enough. But this year especially, the city offered up even more opportunities for full auditory pleasure.

This summer's Artscape Festival, now in its sixth year, was hugely successful. The event shut down Mount Royal Avenue to showcase hundreds of local artists. Everyone from Squidfire to Centerstage to the U.S. Army was there to represent and hawk their wares (or recruit, you know it's all in the name of art). Artscape managed four stage s that featured incredible lineups with acts including Common, G Love and The Special Sauce, Brazilian Girls, Cut Chemist and Peanut Butter Wolf. The eclectic mix of musicians drew a diverse crowd that interacted fluidly. It was a truly fantastic event to see all different walks of people coming together to celebrate Baltimore arts. Not even the presence of torrential rain could stop the festival. Thousands of Baltimoreans braved the weather for the most successful Artscape to date. Hopefully this will spur an even bigger, badder Artscape next year.

Sir Richard Branson blessed Baltimore this year when he decided to host the first ever Vir-

gin Music Festival in the U.S. Already wildly popular in the United Kingdom, VFest brought big names like The Red Hot Chili Peppers, The Who, Gnarl Barkley and The Killers. Two smaller stages featured The Flaming Lips, The New Pornographers and a DJ tent that hosted too many DJs. VFest was held on a beautiful day in September at Pimlico Racetrack and resulted in many a drunken, sunburned Facebook album. Although

the outdoor festival has become the bane of musical existence (due in most part to corporate control), Virgin Music Festival managed to bring the kind of press you can't pay for. It put Baltimore on the map as more than just the second most dangerous city in America.

On a smaller level the best festival in Baltimore for the past decade has been Hampdenfest. Almost everyone who went agreed that Hampdenfest was the best day of their life since last year's Hampdenfest. With local acts like the ever spectacular Dan Deacon and the Oranges Band and Liars Academy, the festival was an orgy of local culture. There is no better way to celebrate Baltimore than to get drunk in the city's most colorful neighborhood. Hampden embraces the old-timey, friendly Baltimore that many have forgotten, and Hampdenfest embodies that.

— Alex Begley



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.THEBASSGUY.COM
Roger Daltrey of the legendary band The Who performed at Virgin Music Festival.



COURTESY OF THE EVERYMAN THEATER
Patrick Tansor and Megan Anderson starred in Everyman's play *School for Scandal*.

Best Play: Tie, Everyman's *The School for Scandal* and the Baltimore Shakespeare Festival's *Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*. In theater, in film — in fact, in just about all the performing arts — awards lists follow an almost religious practice of favoring tragedies over comedies. Then why, in picking out the top selections from Baltimore's 2006 theater season, do I have no compunction in admitting that this year's lighthearted offering simply trounced the weightier dramas that Charm City's theaters attempted? Both of the harrowing political plays that Centerstage attempted — last spring's *The Murder of Isaac* and this autumn's *Death and the Maiden* — were decked out with noble sentiments but crippled by heavy-handed, not creatively inept scripts. Streamlined selections like the Everyman Theatre's *Opus* fared much better. Though

in retrospect even this concert hall drama was too preoccupied with grand plot design to make its characters anything more than one-tone notes in an impersonal, though well-wrought composition. As it turns out, this year's two best plays were also its most delightful. The first, and more recent, of these was Everyman's com-

Joanna Newsom
Ys

It's no mean feat to conjure an entire world with words alone, but Joanna Newsom succeeds in doing just that. She describes it, meticulously, with staggering eloquence and splendor. Her voice is either an anachronism or a premonition, but in any case, it doesn't belong in the present. Nevertheless, hers is the best album of 2006 and deservedly so; its grandeur and originality are unmatched by anything else released this year.

Beirut
Gulag Orkestar

Gulag Orkestar sounds like nothing you've heard before. The trumpets blare. The drums pound in your ears. The strumming of a lonely ukulele elicits more emotion than any screaming emo song in the history of screaming emo songs.

The voice of Zach Condon — just 20 years old and a bona fide authority on the finer points of Balkan folk music — is a mournful lament whose intimacy is perfectly matched against the vastness of accordion and brass.

Belle & Sebastian
The Life Pursuit

Until recently, Belle & Sebastian were generally regarded as sad sacks. After all, they hail from Scotland, a place where seasonal affective disorder is less a disorder and more a way of life. Their early albums were depressing and gloomy but nonetheless well-made. Perhaps they took an extended vacation to Barbados, but the group's newest release, *The Life Pursuit*, oozes good hu-

manor. Sharp lyrics, funky beats, a wee bit of vestigial melancholy: everything an indie-lover with the dancing bug could ask for.

There was not just method, but intelligence, to their madness.

If this year proved anything, it is that comic pyrotechnics require their own half-demented but incredibly gratifying brand of artistic skill. Granted, neither the decades-old *Complete Works* nor the centuries-old *School for Scandal* can be described as a cutting-edge script, although each mirthfully invaded its audience's space, whether through the BSF's confrontational into-the-aisles presentation or Everyman's rapidly changing, outlandishly furnished sets. When so many of a theater season's heavier dramas fall flat, such comedies, at minimum, provide some sort of refuge. But these two were not just refreshing alternatives: They were the two most confidently orchestrated, if the most whimsical, nights of theater that Baltimore had to offer this year.

— Patrick Kennedy

Gnarls Barkley
St. Elsewhere

At the intersection of rock, rap and R&B lives Gnarls Barkley. *St. Elsewhere* was this year's equivalent to last year's Kanye West megahit *Late Registration* in that both albums incorporate a sufficiently varied suite of influences to avoid scaring off and, in fact, to attract unlikely listeners (read: white people). "Crazy" hit No. 1 in the United Kingdom and stayed there for approximately 34,000 weeks, so it wasn't surprising when Gnarls encountered a similar windfall stateside. For once, though, all the hype was deserved: *St. Elsewhere* is an upbeat, catchy and well-produced gem.

Various Artists
Tropicália: A Brazilian Revolution in Sound

OK, so this is a compilation. Big deal. As the first time most people ever heard Tropicália was in 2006, let's just ignore the technicality. Plus, it's a nearly perfect compilation; the album's selections flawlessly highlight the giddy experimentation that Tropicalismo was all about. Artists whose renown, until recently, extended no further than the water's edge in Rio de Janeiro — Os Mutantes, Caetano Veloso, Tom Zé, Jorge Ben and Gal Costa, to name a few — have sounds, unique to a bygone time and an exotic place, that saturate this album like the heavy air in the rainforests of their homeland.

—Ben Kallman

Theater

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

JHUT masters a difficult performance

By ALEX TRAUM
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The Marriage of Bette and Boo is the classic Christopher Durang play: an absurdist comedy with dark undertones that satirizes the Catholic Church and people's ridiculous compulsions. Also characteristic of a Durang play is the complexity the production requires. With over two dozen scenes, fast-paced dialogue, and several musical numbers, this Durang work is a particularly risky, involved choice for any theater company. That said, John Hopkins University Theater's version of Durang's 1985 masterpiece more than lives up to this challenge, producing a play that is absurd though comprehensible, hilarious without abandoning its darkness and cerebral while never ceasing to entertain.

The play is narrated by the character Matt (senior Michael Vincent), who is meant to be a semi-autobiographical depiction of Durang himself. The story begins with the marriage of Matt's parents, Bette (senior Elizabeth Gilbert) and Boo (senior Anthony Blaha) with their families there to celebrate. It is not long before their marriage begins to fall apart. The successful birth of their first son, Matt, is followed by a progression of stillborns who the Doctor (senior Akshay Oberoi) unceremoniously and coldly throws to the ground after birth, remarking "dead" only the first time while silently tossing the successive ones. Boo takes to drinking while Bette remains obsessed with having children. Whether Boo's alcoholism is a result of Bette's desperation or vice-versa is left unanswered and rendered irrelevant as the audience comes to understand that these characters do not live in a world that is comprehensible by reason.

This is to say nothing of these two characters' respective families.

Bette's mother (junior Michelle Brown) is a domineer-



Bette's family gathers for a birthday party which erupts into a scene of family dysfunction in Durang's classic dark comedy.

ing controller who attempts to regulate what conservation topics are permissible. One of her sisters, Joan (junior Justine Wiesinger) is perpetually sullen and the other, Emily (junior Julie Sihilling) is a mental clinic frequenter and predisposed to apologizing, asking at one point, "Is the phrase 'my own stupidity' hyphenated?" Bette's father, Paul (junior Timothy Wang), due to a severe speech impediment, is completely incomprehensible to everyone including his own family.

Boo's parents are equally laden by absurdity. His father, Karl (junior Shaun Gould) is a misogynistic bully who constantly derides his wife as the "dumbest white woman alive." Boo's mother, whom we only know

by her nickname, Soot (junior Elizabeth Eldridge), yields to her husband's torment by ignoring reality and bursting out into hysterical laughter whenever he is abusive.

In typical Durang fashion, he extends this level of absurdity to the Catholic Church. The resident priest, Father Donnelly (Oberoi), whom the characters often turn to for advice is perhaps the most ridiculous of the characters presented. Performed with a hilarious — though unnecessary — Indian accent, he remarks that he is unable to help people solve their problems, except to "mumble platitudes" to the "stupid people" who approach him with their "insoluble problems." Oberoi steals the show as Father Donnelly when

he gives a brilliant interpretation of bacon being fried (you are going to have to see it to understand).

The narrator, Matt is perhaps the most interesting, though unexplored character. Matt belongs both within and apart from the narrative, the teller of the story and an occasional participant, though he often comes across as a distant spectator. The psychological effects of his family's dysfunctions on him are not explicitly conveyed, though as the story progresses we sense Matt's development and his own voice becomes more pronounced, remarking toward the end of the play, "I don't believe that God punishes people for specific things. He punishes people in general for no reason."

This particular production of *The Marriage of Bette and Boo* effectively captures the spirit and ideas of Durang. The play is a dark satire that straddles the line of between fiction and fantasy while never belonging to the magical realism genre. The actors and director Krista Smith convey this vision that leaves the audience disturbed though unable to control their laughter.

Throat Culture ruffles feathers with comedy

By ELLIS SINGER
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

What can one say walking out of the fall Throat Culture show, aptly called "Tolerable Cruelty: JHU's Fall 2006 Racial Sensitivity Workshop," other than, well, what can I say? This show, designed to be a mockery of the recent diversity issues on campus, left its audience members wondering exactly what they had walked into. This was the second of two Throat Culture shows this year, the first being a compilation of two years worth of work. It was reported that this performance was the first time the whole group had seen the show in its entirety.

As always, Throat Culture aimed to offend all parties equally, featuring skits with topics of diversity, obesity, cancer, homosexuality, human trafficking and late-term (51st trimester?) abortion.

But the audience, once past the initial knee-jerk reactions to some of the rather unpolished and crude dialogue, seemed less enthralled than they had walking in. The question on everyone's mind at intermission seemed to be, "Whose humor is this?" As one student remarked, "Pleasingly offensive ... sort of." In terms of topics, the focus was solely "diversity;" few skits featured anything political or situational.

Missing were the off-kilter but original themes of shows past such as "Orange Versus Grapefruit," "Facebook the Musical" or "Hopkins Shuttle Driver." If their intention was to provide comic relief to and poke fun at the stressful and politically correct culture of Hopkins, Throat Culture missed their mark. The main flaw was not that the show was overly offensive and caused an uproarious clamor after every scene but that the comedic timing and script were not strong enough to create the desired response to the risqué issues it framed. While the skits aimed

to be tongue-in-cheek, few succeeded; most were borderline tasteless and too heavy with elaborate death sequences (complete with a Shakespeare-esque soliloquy) to be laughable. The silence after nearly all but three skits was not reflective of shock and horror at the issues as one would have expected, but rather of a clueless audience who understood the setup but were still waiting for the joke. For lack of a better term, Throat Culture was deficient in diversity of topics and styles of humor.

But, where taste, preparation and technical prowess were visibly absent, there was a plethora of talented actors and some notable new faces. Freshman Eric Levitz gave the best deadpan Hopkins has seen in years and Richard Zheng far outshined his co-stars with his effervescence and animation.

The directors of Throat Culture know they can rely on sophomores Mike Wills, Bill Fuller and Zoe Bell to deliver nearly any scene, no matter how ambiguous, (though there are some that not even Mike Wills as a pot-smoking Jesus Christ can save) and used these key players often. Though it had its high points, the performance was lacking the cohesion and wit of past shows and relied too heavily on pseudo-scandalous social taboos and seemingly improvised strings of monologue.

Ultimately the show was saved by snappy one-liners about freshman girls, tolerance-bots and the overall excitement of a forgiving audience. The videos were also a highlight of the show, particularly "Chipotle" and "An Awkward Love Story" because of their originality. In terms of the next semester's show, the overwhelming consensus among those leaving Arellano was to embrace the talents of the group and return to the witty, sometimes obscure style of semesters past and leave the cancer jokes for someone else to stumble over.

New Vibrations

Clipse
Hell Hath No
Fury
Startrack
Nov. 28 ,2006



It seems almost a requirement to acknowledge the tumultuous prologue to the release of *Hell Hath No Fury* when discussing the album itself. After more than two years of delays, increasingly bitter relations with their label and electric fan anticipation that rivaled the "comeback" of Jay-Z, the release of Clipse's sophomore endeavor is as much an event as it is an album. And while group members (and brothers) Pusha T and Malice have stuck to the same drug-enamored formula that made their debut album *Lord Willin'* a standout of 2002, they have also retained their seething lyrical prowess that ensures their title as the reigning kings of coke rap, easily superseding such pretenders to the throne as the cartoonish braggadocio Young Jeezy. *Hell Hath No Fury* isn't just a phenomenal second album but one of the most ominously compelling releases of the entire year.

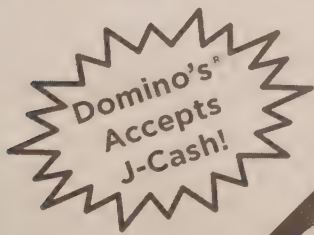
Besides being an outstanding album, *Hell Hath No Fury* is a decidedly sinister one. These are not the aforementioned Jeezy's upbeat stories of hustling in the face of adversity; these are remorseless treatises on ill-gotten everything: Swedish women, bejeweled watches and the other manifold trappings of a lifestyle derived from cocaine. There can be no doubt about the fact that, strictly in terms of subject matter, Clipse are arrant materialists, even borderline misogynists. But dismissing them for rap-

ping about nothing but Rolexes and coke is like dismissing Jane Austen for writing about nothing but dysfunctional marriages and waltzing; beyond the ostensibly narrow lyrical focus lies a disturbingly intricate ethos of apathetic wealth, amorality and unabashed wickedness.

Each gorgeously haunting track is not merely an account of drug dealing or ode to the riches it procures but a vitriolic and cleverly malicious manifesto. "Mamma I'm Sorry" in particular embodies this spirit of guiltless villainy; though seemingly an apology to their mother, it isn't a "sorry" of penitence, but rather a statement of "Hey, that's just how it is," (though sorrowful nonetheless). The production work Clipse received from The Neptunes is perfectly congruous with the gloomy lyricism. Eschewing jazzy samples and Pharell's signature sci-fi keyboard work, Malice and Pusha instead rap over sparse arrangements that most often feature only one or two elements: a spookily fading piano scale, a hoarse accordion squeeze or ghostly choir. With dark lyrics and equally grim beats, *Hell Hath No Fury* is an alluring and at the same time profoundly disquieting album. The words may illustrate a world of glitz and indulgence, but unlike most coke rap, it's a world most listeners will find more disturbing than desirable.

—Sam Biddle

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CONTINUED ON PAGE B8

Visually stunning *Apocalypto* falls flat in plot

By **MATT HANSEN**
The Johns Hopkins University

There is no crucifixion in *Apocalypto*. And, despite the ardent wishes of publicist stunt junkies, Mel Gibson does not make an appearance. Oh, and he never mentions God. At least not a monotheistic one.

Instead he makes a movie that can be cut in half. The first hour is an epic — long shots of the jungle canopy, bombastic music, overwhelming prettiness in each shot — and the second hour is a music video without a pop song — frenetic, sped-up-then-slowed-down action that makes all those pretty scenes blur into adrenaline.

The plot, sketched out by Gibson and a studio pal, is formulaic: Jaguar Paw (Rudy Youngblood), husband from a peaceful tribe, is taken from his wife and child by the domineering Maya and must fight to reunite with them — and Gibson seems to know it, as instead of characters we have images. His cinematographer Dean Semler, an Oscar-winner for *Dances With Wolves*, makes ample use of his vast jungle canvas, creating atmosphere and emotion where the script falls flat by seamlessly blending actor and scenery — the hunters of Jaguar Paw's tribe, some indigenous actors, some not, inhabit their landscape with a grace due entirely to Semler's portrait-quality shots. The images truly come into their own when the captured Jaguar Paw, strung together with his fellow villagers by a raiding party, are marched into the center of a Mayan city, where the sheer color, energy and light call to mind the studio epics of a time when Hollywood regularly hired thousands of extras a day, as in films like *Lawrence of Arabia* or even *Cleopatra*. News reports say that Gibson did the same, hiring upward of 1,000 extras for some of



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In this scene in a Mayan city, captives are taken to be sacrificed to the gods in order to continue and protect their civilization.

the Mayan scenes, and the results are refreshingly free of computer animation, as 1,000 or more real, living people go about their business on screen — people who, in scenes that remind you that the past is never dead, look stunningly like the paintings and sculptures that remain from the Mayan period.

Gibson's Goya-esque inability to turn away from the seductive blossoming of crimson blood or slithering organs or wet, snapping bones — the same lack of restraint that made some irreverent critics call *The Passion* a religious snuff film — serves him well here in the pre-Columbian world of the jungles surrounding what is today Veracruz in coastal Mexico. Though the spurning, slopping, sluicing and shunting of blood and fluid becomes almost too much — and then continues

to the point of over-saturation. It serves its purpose in creating a world where people kill each other in brutal and painful ways, and where death is confronted daily and accepted as a natural and expected chapter in life.

For all its willingness to drag its audience through blood and mud and sweat in its fast-paced final hour, *Apocalypto* also doesn't give them much credit. While the Mayans remain some of the more inscrutable peoples of pre-Columbian history — astronomers and mathematicians while also warriors and conquerors — Gibson creates an angry, reactionary, contorted, frightening society where the main motivation of life is to slake a thirst for blood through rape, sacrifice and death. The simplified black-and-white universe Gibson creates, where Jaguar Paw and his people rep-

resent nobility and peace and the Mayan's duplicity and sin could be called biblical in its own way, but mostly it just seems ignorant. The Mayan raiding party becomes a sneering, sadistic group of slave traders who bear a resemblance to the Orcs of the *Lord of the Rings* series — grinning at death, reveling in violence — and the Mayan city teems with pestilence-ridden slaves, fat, gorging noblewomen and emaciated, sharp-teethed worshippers, all overseen by an evangelical minister-cum-temple leader who works up the crowd into slavering devotion before cutting out another man's heart.

Gibson claims that *Apocalypto* is allegorical, that the Mayans, like the U.S., are engaged in futile efforts to shore up their dying empire, only instead of cutting out the hearts of slaves, the U.S. is sending soldiers to Iraq. The connection is tenuous, at best, but at least it gives this confusing film a message, which is better than Gibson seems to be able to do during its whole runtime.

APOCALYPTO

Starring: Rudy Youngblood, and Dalia Hernandez
Director: Mel Gibson
Run Time: N/A
Rating: R
Playing at: Coming soon

Rocky Balboa knocked out, sixth round

By **ALEX BEGLEY**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

In 1976 *Rocky* won three Academy Awards, including Best Picture, and captured the adoration of America. Rocky Balboa, the underdog of the boxing world who rose to become a heavyweight champion through sheer good old fashioned ambition, was and still is an icon.

Ask anyone on the street about Rocky and they will probably do one of three things: sing the theme song and shadow box, scream "Adriaaaaaaan," or mimic the boxer's triumphant run up the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Since the original movie was released, there have been four sequels and this December we are graced with the fifth and hopefully final installment of the *Rocky* franchise, *Rocky Balboa*.

Rocky Balboa opens on a dreary Philly evening, the anniversary of the death of Rocky's beloved wife, Adrian Pennino. The specifics of her death are ambiguous but one thing is for sure: This makes Rocky sad. And he stays that way for the first hour-and-a-half. Essentially the

thought process behind the film must have sounded something like this: "What do we do with the movie until the fight?"

Their answer was to have Rocky relive moments from past *Rocky* movies (read here: his life) scene by scene. The movie follows the aged boxer around his hometown, to his old haunts, where he recounts every detail of his memories with Adrian. These scenes are complete with black-and-white flashbacks to the scenes from *Rocky* that he is describing.

This becomes particularly annoying to people who are familiar with the original movie and don't need to be retold, and then re-shown, every cloying moment. Balboa drags Adrian's brother Paulie (Burt Young) around with him to their favorite places and it is Paulie who quickly tires of the ritual. He urges Rocky to do something more with his life than pine for Adrian and the glory days. This is where we see the first inkling of a comeback.

The audience is merely tempted with this quiet promise of action because they are then forced to sit through more reminiscing, a weak love story — who

wants to see a 60-year-old Sylvester Stallone get his mack on with a younger woman? — and a sad attempt to reconnect with his banker-type son (who obviously inherited the brains that skipped Rocky). Then, finally, we are relieved from the agonizing flashbacks when an ESPN-like station airs a simulated fight between Rocky Balboa, in his prime, and the current heavyweight knock-out champ Mason "The Line" Dixon. Virtual Rocky wins the fight and spurs a nation-wide controversy over the results. Influenced by Paulie's encouragement and

the simulated fight's outcome, Rocky applies for a professional boxing license so he can fight again. Though no boxing official in their right mind would hand over a license to a 60-year-old wash-up (look at the effect boxing had on Muhammad Ali, and he retired at 39) Stallone delivers an almost incomprehensible speech to the athletics panel and thus, the melancholy Rocky shows some of the heavyweight spirit he's famous for.

Mason Dixon (played by Antonio Tarver, an actual boxing champion) gets wind of Rocky's decision to box again and Dixon's managers offer an exhibition match between the legend himself, Rocky Balboa, and the young champion, Mason Dixon. Rocky accepts and this is the point where the movie should have started.

Two-thirds of the movie is spent trying to bring the audience close to the character so they will root for him. But what the filmmakers failed to take into account was that anyone who is going to see the sixth installment of a Rocky movie already knows the character and is already rooting for him. The exposition in the beginning is drawn-out and unnecessary.

However, the last 10 minutes of the movie, during the fight, have to be some of the most exhilarating moments in cinematic history. In the first round, Rocky looks like a joke, a goner, as he can barely land a punch on Mason Dixon.

Just as we are about to lose faith in the Italian Stallion, he answers back with an aggressive spurt of body blows, severely slowing Dixon's game. With the audience watching breathlessly, Rocky is knocked to the mat time and time again, only to pick his bloodied body back up and soldier on. I'm not going to give away the ending, but just like Rocky it's soft "on the inside."

ROCKY BALBOA

Starring: Sylvester Stallone and Burt Young
Director: Sylvester Stallone
Run Time: N/A
Rating: PG
Playing at: Coming soon

Anthallo and Page France let loose at Ottobar show

By **JORDAN WYNDELTS**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

I've heard Anathallo described as one part indie, one part marching band, one part musical theater and one part "oh my God my brain just broke." I'm sure there is a dash of other things in there, too, but I have neither the refined musical vocabulary nor expertise to pick them out. Any way you describe it, their show at the Ottobar last Thursday blew everyone away.

I was in the balcony for the entirety of the Ottobar show, which, in the end, was a good call. As the concert got underway, the space in front of the stage was packed by increasingly tall high school kids. What the hell they were doing out on a Thursday night in their Hot Topic and Pac Sun attire, giant black Xs emblazoned on their hands, I will never know.

Royal Army Recording Company, a group from Frostburg, Md. opened first, filling the "TBA" slot on the Baltimore ticket. They earned immediate bonus points when I saw one of them hooking a violin up to one side, and double that when they used it, and well, in their show. There is nothing quite like seeing a man rock out on a violin. That said, the level of rocking out you get from a violin and predominantly acoustic guitar is distinctly different from other sorts of rocking out. RARC is classic indie rock, with ballad-like songs, the occasional duet and some sprinklings of other instrumentation courtesy of their keyboard player (who, lamentably, seemed like he couldn't rock out nearly as much as he wanted to, with a stationary instrument and all). Their set was regrettably short, but as a small-time local band that has only yet produced a record under the name of The Royal Army Recording Company as of 2006, not surprising. Their information and music samples, are available at <http://www.royal-army.net>.

Page France, listed on the ticket with Anathallo, was up next. Despite (or maybe because of) favorable reviews from a friend, I was underwhelmed. Don't get me wrong; they are a talented group of people. But their music was distinctly folksy and the lead singer's voice had an odd, nasal undertone to it — when you don't love a band's style and have issue with the sound of their singer's voice, there's just nowhere to go from

there. That said, I could listen to them, and if the day comes when I have enough disposable income that I don't want to dispose on other things, I'd pick up their CD. But they are not a band like RARC or Anathallo that I could ever listen to on repeat. In their favor, their music does have an endearing and almost fairy-tale feel with a gentle xylophone plink and strummed guitar strings. Their lyrics carry the same vibe, and with them, a kind of Zen warmth that's hard to find (and hard to find properly executed) in much music. Their music is available through <http://www.pagefrance.net>.

Anathallo was the last band to take the stage, coming on in all their seven-person-ensemble glory and needing an impressively short amount of time to set up the impressively many instruments they had on hand. Any show with Anathallo becomes part concert part performance piece, with each song shuffling band members around the stage to take up different instruments, or engage in precisely timed dances — if clapping, folding in half and popping up can be counted as dance. I'm going to say they can. I hesitate to classify Anathallo as anything but simply indie as their member number and array of instruments are signs enough that they like experimentation.

The sound of rain on a snare drum, wind chimes through a xylophone (a popular instrument that night), clapping for a beat where there might otherwise be a drum and the rolling crescendo of horns and symbols are only the tip of the iceberg. Anathallo's lead singer has a gentle, lyrical voice that lends itself to their more energetic songs as well as the soothingly somber numbers like "Genesaret." Anathallo closed their set with "Kasa no Hone (The Umbrella's Bones)," a song that, despite its steady foothold in my iTunes Most Frequently Played list, I still can't categorize. It's lilting, it's haunting, and, as I realized for the first time at the show last night, it's in Japanese. My friend was turned off by the idea of the awkward white boy at the mic singing in an Asian language — the word 'fanboy' comes to mind — but I was, and am, so won over by the borderline indescribable sound that all I want to do is find the lyrics, sit down and translate.

Feet heartwarming for the holidays

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B7

Problems begin when Memphis loses his concentration and drops the egg. After the belated birth of their son, Mumble, it's easy to notice his unusual behavior. Instead of waddling, Mumble tap-dances around the nesting ground. When he's asked by Memphis, "What you doing there with your feet?" he quickly responds "I'm happy, pa. They're happy too!" His startling talent is unwelcome as they realize that his singing voice is bad enough to shatter ice.

As a teenager, Mumble, an outgoing and passionate penguin, tries to overcome the teasing and prejudices against him from his community. With a deadly fish shortage, the elders led by the conservative-minded Scottish penguin Noah (voiced by Hugo Weaving), seek an explanation. They blame the problem on Mumble and force him to leave his family and his love, Gloria (voiced by Brittany Murphy). Mumble sets out to discover the truth to prove his innocence and abilities to everyone. The story will keep you wondering until the very end, a rare quality in children's films.

The story and its characters are wonderfully adorable, and there are many moments of hilarity. Robin Williams voices the two characters of comic relief, Raul, a spit-fiery Latin blue penguin, and Lovelace, an overzealous rock penguin who preaches of mystic beings (humans) to his community. Lovelace, Raul and his clan of entertaining amigos help Mumble on his journey creating laughter along the way.

The music is wildly entertaining. The penguins sing and dance to everything from Prince to TLC. Be sure to listen closely



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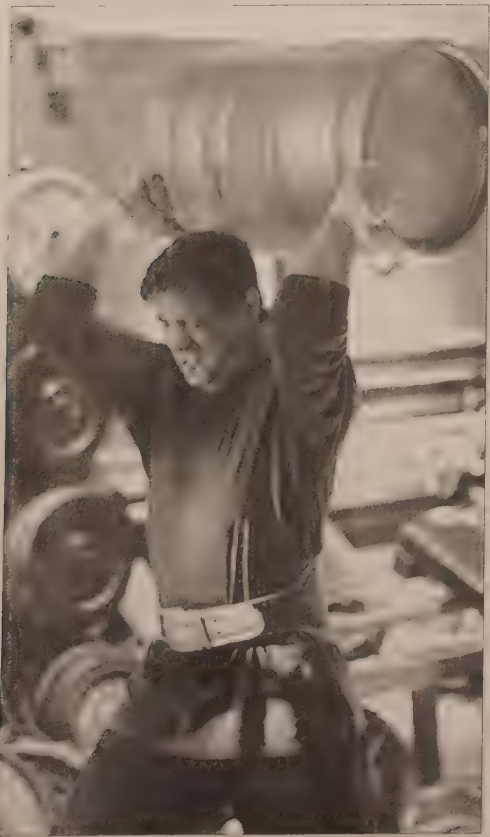
Young Mumble, as voiced by E.G. Daily, dances up an arctic storm in *Happy Feet*.

to hear the numerous songs that work in and out of each musical break. Brittany Murphy, Nicole Kidman and Hugh Jackman all show off their impressive vocal talents throughout the film. The teenage penguins celebrate their graduation with Queen's "Somebody to Love" while Mumble later practices to Stevie Wonder's "I Wish." You'll leave the theatre singing and wanting to find the nearest record store to buy the album.

The computer graphics are also impressive. The expressions shown through the penguins' eyes are amazing. Mumble even has Elijah Wood's piercing blue eyes and slightly awkward build. The integration of the computer-animated penguins with live human actors is original and well done.

HAPPY FEET

Starring: Nicole Kidman, Hugo Weaving, Robin Williams
Director: George Miller
Run Time: 1 hr 48 min
Rating: PG
Playing at: Townson AMC




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Rocky Balboa prepares for his final fight by throwing a keg.

CARTOONS, ETC.


your Horoscope




Aries: (March 21 - April 19)
Caveman think thoughts sometimes, wonder why he live in cave all his life. Then cave-wife show him her cave, and all thoughts go away.




Taurus: (April 20 - May 20)
Not to complain, but caveman wonder sometime if softer brand of toilet paper not available on market. Cactus not as smooth as caveman like.




Gemini: (May 21 - June 20)
Understand caveman for who he is, I often say. But nobody understand. Caveman human, just like you. Though much better looking.




Cancer: (June 21 - July 22)
Concept of evolution frighten caveman, probably because caveman not like change. Also, concept of walking "upright" just seem weird.




Leo: (July 23 - Aug. 22)
"Of mice and men," caveman often say. But caveman not really sure what it mean. Caveman just say it sometime at parties to sound smart.




Virgo: (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)
Holiday time for caveman to get away from it all, spend time with clan. But sometime, too much clan time make caveman want to take own life.




Libra: (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)
But what make caveman caveman, you ask? Ability to pass gas without others noticing, for one. For this, caveman friends call him "silent threat."




Scorpio: (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)
Wish for all-powerful fire god in sky to bless caveman with good life. Then caveman get fired from work, and curse fire god who forsake him.




Sagittarius: (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
You discriminate against caveman for way he look and talk? Caveman file complaint, but know nobody will protect caveman minority.



Capricorn: (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)
Merry caveman sometime get too merry, drink too much fire water. Caveman say embarrassing thing, but not remember next morning.



Aquarius: (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
"One man can change world," caveman say. This not true for dirty ape, who cannot change world. Dirty ape steal caveman food, wife!



Pisces: (Feb. 19 - March 20)
Anyway, remember caveman this holiday season during all your revelry and fun. Caveman not have go home, but cannot stay here.

Toad Detective

by Matt Hansen



Panel 1: I WOKE UP WITH A SORE HEAD, BURIED IN A PILE OF... MONEY?

Panel 2: SO, VINCENTE HAD OUTROGGED ME ONCE AGAIN.

Panel 3: IN THE DISTANCE I HEARD THE SIRENS.

Panel 4: IT WAS GONNA BE A LONG NIGHT...



NEXT SEMESTER, STAY TUNED FOR THE CONCLUSION OF TOAD DEEGLIVE

Gift giving: a holiday tradition

When the apocalypse is at hand, you're going to be glad that you received that sperm sample

The holidays are upon us. I know this because all the radio stations are blaring Christmas music 24/7, which means that instead of crappy songs about getting laid, we have to listen to crappy songs about universal compassion. Both are pretty annoying, but at least the songs about getting laid were vaguely grounded in reality. Music aside, however, the holidays really boil down to one thing: giving people gifts.

This is the time of year when everyone expresses their true devotion by buying each other really expensive crap. Because, let's face it: Handjobs only go so far. I want a goddamn lawn mower.

Of course, buying people gifts is a very complicated procedure. First of all, we need to take into account that "the holidays" don't apply to everyone. These holidays are, of course, the holy triumvirate of Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa. But what if someone you know isn't a Christian, a Jew or an African-American? Should you get them a gift too? Should you buy them a card? Should you even be friends with them?

The answer really depends on the circumstances, like how well you know this person, how attractive they are and how many favors you need from them. However, chances are you'll never run into this problem, since almost everybody in America is Christian, Jewish, black or at Guantánamo Bay.

Now, as for your non-terror

ist friends, you need to buy these people some quality gifts. First of all, do NOT, under any circumstances, buy someone a sweater; there is no better way to become someone's least favorite person. It is my firm belief that sweaters were invented for the sole purpose of destroying relationships.

Strangely, many people are quite content to purchase their own sweaters, but don't let this fool you. Sweaters can be bought, but they cannot be given. This is

how sweaters work.

Besides sweaters, there are certain gifts that are always inappropriate, no matter who the recipient is. These include:

- Anthrax
- Some sort of homemade bomb
- The Da Vinci Code

When selecting a gift, try to find something that's actually going to be useful. Fancy jewelry is nice, but is that really going to help when the apocalypse arrives? Earrings are inefficient weapons against robots.

Also, if you're a guy, I would suggest giving out sperm samples; in the event of your demise, these will be necessary for the cloning process. Use themed wrapping paper to drive home

the point. Also, make sure you give gender-appropriate gifts. Our heteronormative society doesn't want to see little Billy playing with Barbie dolls. That's how sin begins.

There are situations where gift-giving can be postponed. For example, if your house happens to burn down, you don't have to give any gifts. This is because your house burned down. Also, if you've been shipwrecked on a desert island, and you're the only one on the island, you do not have to give any gifts. You should scavenge for food, however, and perhaps build some sort of primitive hut.

Also, if you happened to survive a global nuclear war by hiding in a metal bunker deep underground, and you're the only person alive on the entire planet, then you do not have to give gifts. This is because you are the only person alive on the entire planet.

Finally, we must consider what this all means. Why do we give gifts for Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa? What does this have to do with Jesus, Yahweh and the black Jesus, respectively? Perhaps we will never know. Whatever the reason, it's clear that giving gifts is a good way to show how much we care about our family and friends, and how little we care about everybody else. Happy holidays.

Matt Diamond is going to give sweaters to all his robot friends. He can be contacted at mdiamond@jhu.edu.

Hu.man 2.0

by William Parschalk



Panel 1: LOOK AT ALL THE STARS...

Panel 2: THAT'D BE A GREAT NAME FOR AN EMO BAND...

Panel 3: I WISH I COULD GO TO THE MOON...

Panel 4: LET'S GO THEN!

Panel 5: WE'LL FLY WITH MAGICAL WILL POWER!

Panel 6: YAY!

Panel 7: I'M A BEAVER AND I'M COMING TOO!

Panel 8: HALT, MOONBOUND TRAVELERS!

Panel 9: JAZZY OCTOPUS!

Panel 10: YIKES!

Panel 11: YOU CAN'T TRAVEL WITHOUT MOON MUSIC!

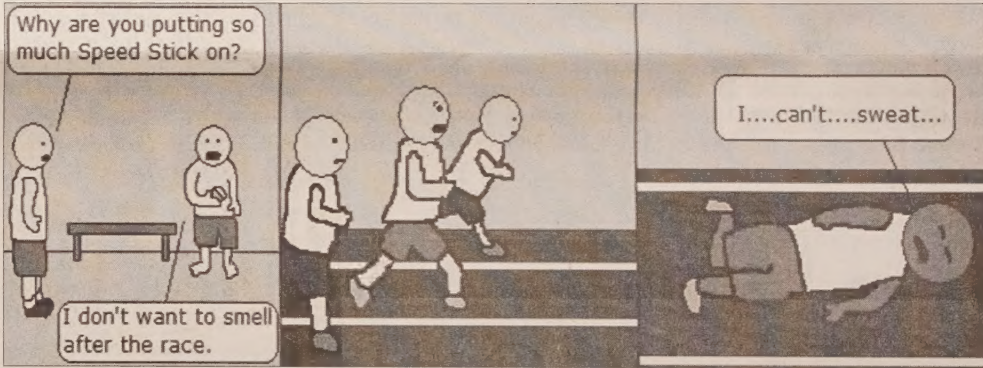
Panel 12: YAY!

Panel 13: EAT YOUR VEGETABLES!

Panel 14: NO WAY!

Wasted Ink

by Nate Min



Panel 1: Why are you putting so much Speed Stick on?

Panel 2: I don't want to smell after the race.

Panel 3: I....can't....sweat...

Enter the Sudoku

by Matt Hansen

8	7		4					
		3	5					
5	1			9	4	8		
	8	7	6	1		9		
				4	3	7	5	
	9	8	2			3		6
					4	2		
					6		9	4

			3			7	2	
	4	5		7				9
			1	8		3	4	
1	8							2
		2				4		
7							3	8
	5	3		9	7			
8				1		6	5	
	7	1			6			

					8		3	
		6	1			4	8	
	2		6		3	5		
		2				3		7
6			3	2	1			4
1	3					8		
		4	8		7		9	
	7	8			9	6		
6		4						

5			2	4				
	3				9	4		
		7		1		9	2	3
	5	1				2		
	8			9			7	
		9				5	4	
9	7	8		5		1		
		5	7				8	
				8	2			4

	8	4	2	6			1	
2			9					7
		5						
4	6			9	3			
	7	9				4	2	
			4	1			9	6
						6		
3					7			5
	5			4	8	1	3	

CALENDAR

CALENDAR DEC. 7-DEC. 13



Do it FasterFasterHarderHarder tonight at the Ottobar

FasterFasterHarderHarder is a Baltimore-based punk- and indie-influenced rock band. They will perform at the Ottobar tonight at 9 p.m. with The Big Sleep, Death by Sexy and The Safeword Club. The group was founded in January 2005 after Brian Buta and a friend were inspired to write a few punk songs after an election night Subhumans show. They then brought their musical ideas to their friend Matt Warfield, a drummer and 2002 graduate of Towson University, and by the end of the first session the trio had written several songs. Later, the line-up was completed by the addition of Mike Garber on guitar.

For a period of time, the band made some low-quality recordings, which helped them to book some shows at local clubs. Buta's friend stopped performing with the group at the end of summer 2005, and a new drummer, Sam Small joined in late August of the same year. Three of the band members are affiliates of Hopkins: Buta and Garber are employees at the JHU Medical Campus and Small is currently a graduate student at Homewood. Warfield is not an affiliate of Hopkins, but runs a non-profit organization called the Baltimore Free Store.

The group has played many Baltimore venues in the past: "Our favorite places to play in Baltimore are The Ottobar, Sonar and The Talking Head Club (which unfortunately is shutting down at the end of the month). We have played at the Ottobar four times before, all in 2005. [This week's show] will be our first (and last) time playing there in 2006. We hope to play there more next year," founder Buta said.

This June, the group independently released a five-song EP and is now working on a second with five to seven tracks. The group has as of now only mostly played local clubs but hopes to



Punk- and post-punk-influenced group FasterFasterHarderHarder will perform tonight in their native Baltimore at the Ottobar.

branch out to clubs in other cities: "We will be recording a full-length album this winter [and] plan to release the album in late Spring [or] early Summer and go on an East Coast tour to support it," guitarist and vocalist Buta said.

Most notably, many critics have been impressed with the band's ability to create their own sound after only such a short time together, combining "the dynamics and passion of Sweden's Refused with the melody-driven sound

of American punk music", according to Music Monthly. When the group was asked what their main influences were, guitarist Garber replied, "We are an Indie rock band with punk and post punk influences, like Interpol, Nirvana, the Cure [and] Radiohead." They're also a band that embraces their strengths, namely the fact that they are essentially a dance band and their excellent vocalist. Recognizing the fact that their music makes people want to dance, they included a

techno-remix of their best song at the end of their first EP. They also make good use of vocalist Buta, who has a strong voice and seldom misses a note or makes range errors.

To purchase tickets for tonight's show, which will hopefully uphold FasterFasterHarderHarder's reputation of being an above-par live band, call 410-662-0069, or visit <http://www.theottobar.com>.

— Yasin Akbari

Get your giggle on at Last Laugh '06

This Saturday, Student Development and Programming, in association with Comedy Central, will present Last Laugh '06, bringing Baltimore some of New York City's freshest stand-up acts, including Baron Vaughn, Josh Grosvent, Dan Allen, Todd Levin and Hopkins' very own Scott Rogowsky.

Both Allen and Levin have been featured on Comedy Central's *Premium Blend*, described as a "breeding ground for up-and-coming stars." As rising comics, they took the stage with hosts including Kathy Griffin, Jamie Kennedy, and Wanda Sykes. Grosvent, for his part, has performed at the Gotham comedy club and Vaughn has appeared at the U.S. Comedy Arts Festival and on *Law and Order*.

Last Laugh '06 is not a tour, according to Baron Vaughn, but rather "four comedians who know and like each other very much and teamed up especially to come down to Johns Hopkins." All of the comedians feature "very different styles of comedy that [the group] thought would be an especially hilarious and full experience for [students]. Of course, maybe this lineup could be a powerful tour someday. We'll call it *Who the Hell Are These Guys* tour."

All of these comedians have performed at different colleges before, a list to large to print. Says Vaughn, "I've done a few colleges with Josh before, but not with Dan or Todd." He cites the University of Maine, Moravian College and Syracuse University as favorite college venues. When asked whether he prefers college venues to comedy clubs, Vaughn replied that colleges are energetic. He appreciates that "people get my random references. If I need to make a *Thundercats*

or *Fraggle Rock* reference, 40-year-olds will stare at me. College kids get it because I'm not much older than you." On the other hand, he says, comedy clubs are built for that purpose and so are better engineered to enhance the comedian's and the audience's experience. Still comparing clubs and colleges is like "apples versus oranges. Both are fruit, but you might be allergic to one and die after eating it."

This is the second comedy show that Hopkins has hosted this year. The first show, "LaffYer Ass Off," on Nov. 4, was a "great success," according to Rogowsky, HOP sponsored that event, and Rogowsky was set to stage Last Laugh '06 with HOP when the organization withdrew funding.

Luckily, Rogowsky said, "Rosa Hanco and the Student Development and Programming office came through to put up the money, but the one draw back was a location change to Charles Commons. The stage in Nolan's is not an ideal comedy setting, but we are going to do our best to recreate a club scene by messing with the lighting and seating arrangements."

Rogowsky hopes to provide a study break for stressed-out Hopkins students in the midst of finals. As for library rats, he says, "I don't think too many students will be on D-Level on the Saturday night before Reading Period ... and I'd venture to guess the few D-level holdouts aren't too fond of stand-up comedy in the first place. Some people don't enjoy laughing. I'd put most Hopkins people in that category."

— Yasin Akbari

Concerts and Clubs

The Ottobar

On Thursday, FasterFasterHarderHarder, The Big Sleep, The Safeword Club and Death by Sexy will perform at the Ottobar. Doors open at 8 p.m. The same night, the Ottobar will hold its weekly club event, Air Raids, which will this week feature DJs Shakes Davies, Angie and Mod Dave. As always, when the siren at the bar wails, come get your free Kamikaze shots. Tonight will also feature a special Happy Hour at 6 p.m., with DJ Sweet Pussy and \$1.50

Bombers. Doors open at 5 p.m. On the Late Show lineup are Thrushes, Squaaks, Jaws and Skydrops.

"Reggae Got Soul" will welcome The Pietasters on Saturday with The Rootworkers and Thee Lexington Arrows. Doors open at 9 p.m. Spinning club tunes that night at Ladyspin will be DJ Kristen. Must be 21 to enter Ladyspin.

Original Sinners, featuring Exene Cervenka, with Knuckel Dragger, Chester Stacey and Lexie

conveniently close to the Homewood Campus at 2549 N. Howard St.

The Talking Head Club

This Friday, the Talking Head Club, now on the cusp of closing its doors, will welcome Chicago-bred Nachtmystium, with Zoroaster, Blodtorte, Oak and Crypt of Raix. Having been an ingénue of the metal underground for some years, Nachtmystium has recently experienced a huge breakthrough with the release of their third full-length LP, *Instinct: Decay* which

On Saturday, MT6 Fest II, the second annual installment of the Talking Head Club's local band festival will happen for only \$5. Acts range from lo-fi Indie rock to sci-fi electronic to boozed-out rock and roll. Imagine — only \$5 to hear from 14 up-and-coming local bands. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

For more information on these and any other events, call 410-962-5588. The Talking Head Club is located, at least until it closes after New Year's Eve, at 203 Davis St.

Rams Head Live!

Tonight, get in the holiday mood at the Rams Head Live! when collective show A Soulful Christmas happens. Featuring Brian Culbertson, Bobby Caldwell, Eric Darius, Warren Hill and Ray Parker Jr., A Soulful Christmas will perform the soul, the funk, the R&B and the jazz versions of favorite holiday songs. Doors open at 7:30 p.m.

Led Zeppelin enthusiasts will enjoy Get The Led Out, a band of professional rock musicians who recreate the music of Led Zep, arguably one of the most creative and influential bands in rock history. Get The Led Out recreates their sound very accurately while at the same time being visually entertaining. Doors open at 7:30 p.m.

On Sunday, Rams Head Live! will present An Evening of ESL Music, presented by Sonic Soul Productions, Rams Head Promotions, and Mosaic. This show will feature a number of international acts Ursula 1000, Thunderball Sound System featuring Mustaf Akbar and Rex Riddem, Endangered Species featuring Nickodemus and Nappy G of Turntables on the Hudson. Must be 18 to enter. Doors open at 8 p.m.

For more information on this and any other events, call 410-244-1131. Rams Head Live! is located at 20 Market Place.

The Recher Theatre

Towson's Recher Theatre will host The Hint's album release party on Friday. Other performing acts will include Dropout Year, American Diary and Stella, Wake Up.

Voodoo Blue will perform the next night with Empty Gratitude, Adelphi and Bandcamp.

On Tuesday, Braddigan, an offshoot of the band Dispatch will perform with Mike McFadden,

Drunken Camel and Plainview will play the Recher.

For more information on this and any other events, call 410-337-7178. The Recher Theatre is located at 512 York Road in Towson.

The 9:30 Club

Tonight, be sure to come see The Dan Band at the 9:30 Club.

The next night, Walther-productions.com will present Victor Wooten with the Deanna Bogart Band at 8 p.m.

— Compiled by Yasin Akbari



The Pietasters will be at the Ottobar with The Rootworkers and Thee Lexington Arrows as part of the "Reggae Got Soul" show.

Natty Bohs, \$2 rail drinks and pints, as well as reduced prices on all drinks. For both Happy Hour and Air Raids, you must be 21 to enter.

On Friday, the Ottobar will hold two shows. Playing the early show are Bayside, The Junior Varsity, Melee and

Mountain Boys. Doors open at 8 p.m. Tasty!, the Ottobar's all-female DJ collective will also play the stage on Sunday, featuring \$3 Jameson shots. Must be 21 to enter Tasty!

For more information on these and any other events, call 410-662-0069. The Ottobar is located

has been nominated for Metal Album of the Year at the Plug Independent Music Awards. "Instinct: Decay" was also named the fourth album of the year by Decibel Magazine and have toured in the past with well-known metal band Sunno. A show sure to please all metal and hard-core fans. Doors open at 9 p.m.



Guitarist Blake Lores, and death metal group Nachtmystium will perform tomorrow.

CALENDAR

Take a break with the Niblets

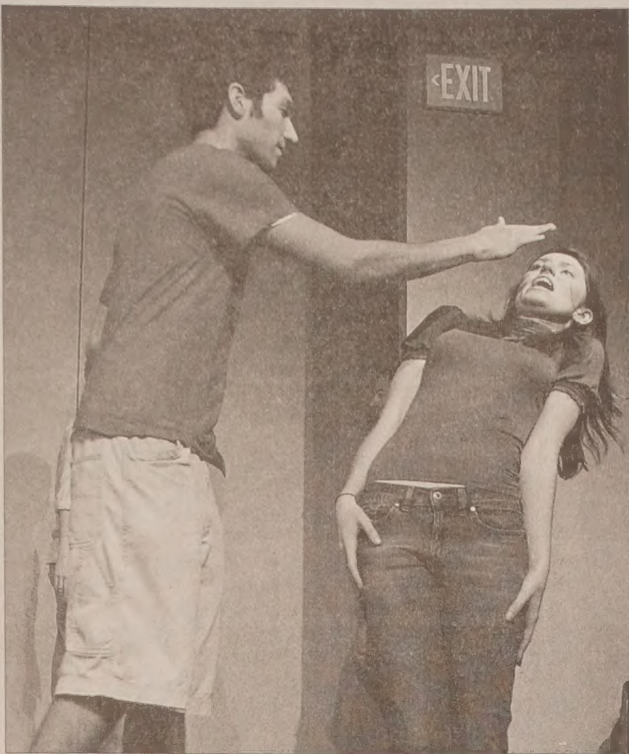
This Friday evening, Hopkins' very own improv comedy troupe, the Buttered Niblets, will be performing their last show of 2006 in Arellano Theater, just under the Glass Pavilion. Admission is \$1.

The Buttered Niblets perform through a series of improv games, similar to *Whose Line Is It Anyway?*. According to freshman member Blake Edwards, the group "plays a game that already has a format based on audience suggestion." Some of these formats can include straight scenes and guessing games as well as the occasional sketch.

So far this year, the group has hosted the Relay for Life, the Red Cross Date Auction and the O-Show, Edwards said. He also mentioned that the Niblets had opened for the Baltimore Improv Group: "That was my first time seeing the Niblets really work. It was an honor to be asked to open for them, because they are at such a high level of improv."

The Buttered Niblets are among some of the most selective student performance groups on campus, selecting only two freshmen this year to join. Nevertheless, Edwards said that upon joining the group, he did not feel intimidated at all. In meeting, he said, everyone is free to contribute or to present ideas, and that there is no hierarchy within the group.

When asked about the show coming up tomorrow, Edwards



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.KNESET.GOV.IL](http://www.kneset.gov.il)
The Buttered Niblets will show off their improv skills Friday night in Arellano Theater.

said that the act will be "freaking hilarious. Everyone should come. Future generations of their family should come. Deceased relatives should come. It's going to be that funny, and a great study break."

Can the Buttered Niblets really pull Hopkins students out of the final exam black hole known as

the MSE? "Not D-Level. C-Level and above, possibly, but I can't guarantee the D-Level moles," Edwards said.

The Butte red Niblets will perform this Friday in Arellano Theater at 8:30 p.m.

— Yasin Asbari

Campus Events

Thursday, Dec. 7

10 a.m. Student Assembly Auction will happen today at the Bloomberg Building (615 N. Wolfe St.) in Feinstone Hall, room E2030. Sponsored by the Student Assembly of the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. For more information, e-mail Monica Li at yueli@jhsph.edu.

11:30 a.m. Today only, come have

your picture taken with Dean John Bader at Levering Hall and then return at 5 p.m. to Nolan's to have your picture taken with Dr. David Draper. The twist? They will be disguised as Santa Claus! Pictures are \$1 per person and all proceeds go to Circle K's Third Annual "Bring A Smile To A Child" holiday gifts project. The organization is trying to raise \$3,000 to buy one gift for each of the students at Dr. Rayner Browne Elementary in East Baltimore. Make a difference in a child's life! For more information or to volunteer to help out, con-

tact bringasmiletoachild@jhu.edu.

12:15 p.m. The Lobbyists Panel, featuring Barbara Brocato, Robin Shavitz, Don Murphy and Frank Boston, will happen at Hampton House, room B14. Sponsored by Health Policy and Management.

4 p.m. Before Democracy: The Advent of Common Sense in Early Eighteenth Century England will be presented by Dr. Sophie Rosenfeld of the University of Virginia in Gilman 348. Sponsored by the Seminar in Political and Moral Thought. For more information, call John Marshall at (410) 516-0458.

4 p.m. This installment of the Journal Club Talks will present James Kuzner and Daniel Stout in Gilman 323.

4 p.m. The Eighth Annual Alan J. Goldman Lecture: Optimization, Calibration and Uncertainty Analysis of Multimodal, Computationally Expensive Models With Environmental Applications. The talk will be given by Dr. Christine A. Shoemaker, Joseph P. Ripley Professor at the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering and School of Operations Research and Information Technology at Cornell University in Maryland 110. Sponsored by the Department of Applied Mathematics and Statistics.

5 p.m. Rabbinic Magic in the Roman Bathhouse: The Poetics of Cultural Interaction in the Roman Mediterranean will be presented by Yaron Eliav, Jean & Samuel Frankel Associate Professor for Rabbinic Literature and Jewish History of Late Antiquity at the University of Michigan in Gilman 123. Sponsored by The Leonard and Helen R. Stulman

Jewish Studies Program. For more information call Ayana Teal at (410) 516-6625.

6:30 p.m. A panel on access to essential medicines will host various speakers from Pfizer and the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation at the East Baltimore Campus, PCTB Building, Mountcastle Auditorium. Sponsored by Hopkins' Universities Allied for Essential Medicines (UAEM).

8 p.m. The Dunbar Baldwin Hughes Theater Company presents the first of their three showings of their winter production, *A Streetcar Named Desire* in Swirnow Theater. Students are \$3 and general admission is \$5. For more information call (410) 516-8028.

Friday, Dec. 8

2 p.m. APL Colloquium: Taking A Long Term Perspective on U.S. Navy ASW Objectives, Capabilities & Trends (Historical Survey & Projections, 1940-2020) in the Applied Physics Laboratory Building, Parsons Auditorium. For more information, call the Colloquium Office, 443-778-5625.

5 p.m. Visiting professor in the Department of the History of Art Michael Koortbojian will give a talk called "Some Early Shrines Dedicated to Augustus: The Awkward Emergence of the Emperor's Divinity" in Mergenthaler 111. Sponsored by the Department of Classics and the Archaeological Institute of America. For more information, call Ginnie Miller at (410) 516-7556.

8 p.m. The second night of DBH's *A Streetcar Named Desire*, in Swirnow Theater. Students are \$3, general admission is \$5. For more info call (410) 516-8028.

10 p.m. The glamorhos, glorious, drop-dead gorgeous Gamma Mu chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho and the Psychotic Psi chapter of Iota Phi Theta will host Gold Fever V, their annual winter party in the Glass Pavilion. Ticket prices are \$5 for Greeks wearing letters, \$7 for those with college ID and \$10 for those without college ID. Last year, the line to get in stretched all the way around the building, so get there early if you hope to get in!

Saturday, Dec. 9

8 p.m. Last night to catch DBH's production of *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Swirnow Theater. Students are \$3 and general admission is \$5.

9 p.m. The Black Student Union will host its annual formal in the Glass Pavilion. This year's theme is Harlem nights; come dressed to impress in your favorite styles from the Roaring Twenties. The top three best-dressed couples will win a prize. Tickets prices are \$20 for you and a date, \$12 for a single ticket.

Monday, Dec. 11

9 a.m. Networks and Neighborhoods: Multilevel Determinants of STI Risks will be presented by Caroline Fitchenberg in the Bloomberg Building (615 N. Wolfe St.), room W2030. Sponsored by the Department of Epidemiology at the School of Public Health. For more information, contact Fran Burman at (410) 955-3926 or fburman@jhsph.edu.

12:15 p.m. Dr. Josh Sharfstein, Baltimore City Health Commissioner will speak at the Bloomberg Building (615 N. Wolfe St.), room W2015. Sponsored by the Career Services Office at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. For more information, contact Jennifer Burkett at (410) 614-9563, jburkett@jhsph.edu.

Tuesday, Dec. 12

10:30 a.m. Association of Maternal Depression Symptoms, Poverty and Single-Parenthood With Use of Preventive Health Services for Preschool-Age Children will be presented by Lisa Lyman of the Department of Health Policy and Management. In the Bloomberg Building (615 N. Wolfe St.), room E4611 Sponsored by the Department of Health Policy and Management at the School of Public Health. For more information, contact Mary Sewell at (410) 955-2489 or msewell@jhsph.edu.

4 p.m. This week, the East Asia Seminar will host Dr. Kathryn Lowry, presenting "Collecting

MOVIE OPENING

Blood Diamond

Movie debuting at the AMC White Marsh this Friday
Showtimes: 12 p.m., 3:20 p.m., 7:30 p.m., 10 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.MOVIEFONE.COM](http://www.moviefone.com)
Jennifer Connelly and Leonardo DiCaprio oostar in the new film Blood Diamond. Set in 1980s South Africa, Blood Diamond depicts the struggle for a priceless blood diamond between a farmer, a smuggler, and a corporate syndicate.

Letters and Making History in 16th- and 17th-Century China" in Gilman 315. Sponsored by the Department of History. For more information, call (410) 516-7575.

Wednesday, Dec. 12

4:30 p.m. Dr. Yixian Zheng of the Carnegie Institute will present "Spindle Morphogenesis: Beyond the Microtubule Cytoskeleton" in Mudd 26. Sponsored by the Department of Biology Colloquium Series. For more information, call (410) 516-7330.

6:30 p.m. The Children of Agape

Choir will perform in Hurd Hall. Sponsored by the JB Grant Society. For more information, contact Gloria Oramasionwu at (410) 502-6337 or goramasi@jhsph.edu.

— Compiled by Yasin Akbari

Got an Event?

Send details about future events, including date, time, location, a brief summary of the event to events@jhnewsletter.com. Please e-mail all events the Monday before publication.

Be shocked tonight by Hopkins: Uncensored!

The Vocal Chords, one of Hopkins' co-ed a cappella groups, will present Johns Hopkins: Uncensored!, featuring Drew University's All Of The Above tonight in Bloomberg Auditorium. Their second performance of the year, the show will feature songs from their Fall 2006 lineup, which include Gnarls Barkley's "Crazy" as well as songs from such favorites as Bruce Springsteen, The Who, Simon and Garfunkel and the musical *Rent*.

Formed in 1995, the group was originally intended as a glee club for those interested in barbershop singing and performing school songs written in the 1800s. Eventually, however, after a number of performances including those at the Dean's Holiday Party at the Medical School and Union Memorial Hospital, the Vocal Chords began performing classic and contemporary pop songs as well. One of the most outstanding characteristics, however, is the Vocal Chords' friendly demeanor, leading them to bill themselves as "Your Friendly Neighborhood A Cappella Group." In the past, the group has performed in the International Championship of A Cappella but have more recently decided to focus on the fun aspects of singing without the stress of competition.

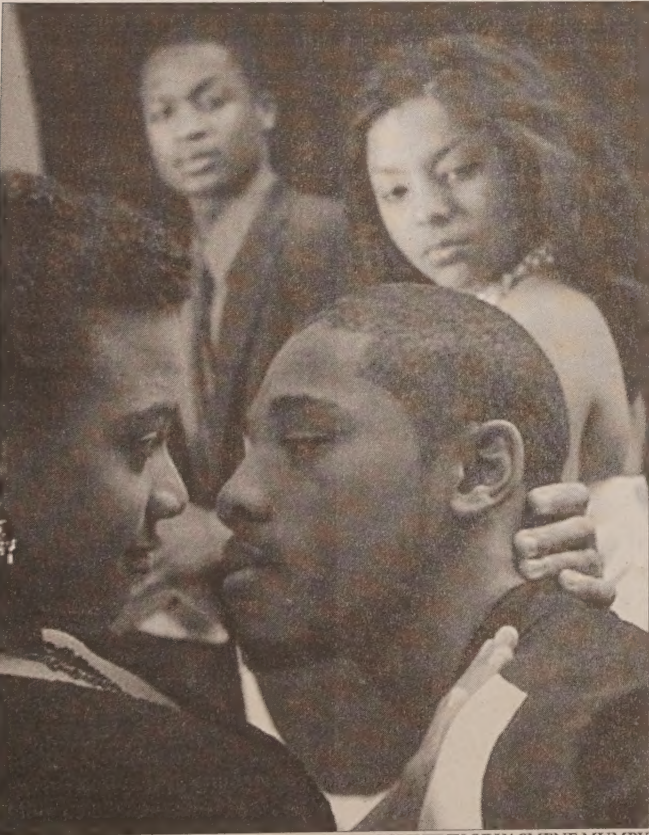
Over the past decade, the group has recorded five albums, of which three got public release. Their first two albums, *Coughing Grounds* and *Take 21*, were recorded primarily for the perfection of recording technique and for fun were never released. In 1997, the then-11-member group released *Feels Like A Moan*, followed by *Fried Happy* in 1999. After a six-year album-release hiatus, the group released *Vintage* in 2005.

Said group member and business manager sophomore Francis Brandt, "[Vintage] has been a great success, as we have been able to sell it not only to our family and friends but to all of our fans who come to see us perform, and even some across the country who have simply downloaded clips from our Web site. We are planning on recording another album within this next year."

This fall, the group welcomed new members, including freshmen Cory Diers, Janet Parker, Karlene Graham and Suzanne Gold, with pleasing results: "We are thrilled to have such a great group of talented newcomers," Brandt said. "There was an overwhelming amount of talent this year, and we were fortunate enough to pick up eight new members — six freshmen and two sophomores. They blended into the group beautifully, learned their music quickly and are already stepping up to help with administrative aspects of the group. It's like they've been in the group for years!" The Vocal Chords have performed for Hopkins students on the Freshman Quad this October with Duke University's Rhythm and Blue as well as at the annual O-Show and at the opening of Charles Commons.

Also performing this weekend are the Mental Notes and the Octopodes. The Mental Notes will be performing on Friday in Bloomberg Auditorium. The group will be also guest-featuring the George Washington University Sons of Pitch. The next night, the Octopodes will be performing in Hodson 110, featuring new fall repertoire songs from The Fray, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Evanescence, Muse, Christina Aguilera and more.

— Yasin Akbari



COURTESY OF YASMENE MUMBY
Dunbar Baldwin Hughes Theater Company presents their winter production of *A Streetcar Named Desire*. It shows December 7, 8, and 9 at 8 p.m. in Swirnow Theater.

BARGAIN EVENTS

Free

For This Is My Body

\$5 to \$10

Courbet/Not Courbet at the Walters

\$10 to \$25+

Amahl and the Night Visi-

The Walters Museum is now featuring a free exhibit of medieval missals and liturgical manuscripts and examining the changing iconography of the missal in the Middle Ages, emphasizing the illustrations for the text of the Canon of the Mass. These exhibits include pictures of the Crucifixion and the celebration of the Eucharist, both of which are key to Catholicism. For more information, visit <http://www.thewalters.org>.

The exhibit *Courbet and the Modern Landscape* presents the opportunity to explore questions of attribution surrounding the late landscapes of Gustave Courbet. Drawing from local collections, this focus show will include a group of 10 late landscapes and several related prints. In an effort to distinguish Courbet's touch from that of his followers and forgers, this show will analyse Courbet's use of the palette knife, sponges and even fingers.

The Vivente Opera will present its acclaimed performance of Gian Carlo Menotti's beloved classic opera, the tale of a crippled shepherd boy, his mother, the Magi and the huge impact of a simple gesture of hospitality. Start the holiday season with *Amahl and the Night Visitor's* perfectly simple and moving music. For more information on purchasing tickets, call (410) 547-7997.

COALITION OF THE WILLING

Photos by MIKE SCHUMP
Text by MATT HANSEN



Coalition of the Willing, the newest band to feature guitar virtuoso Charlie Hunter, brought a slick brand of jazz-influenced rock to Federal Hill's 8x10 Club at a recent show. The intimate setting was the perfect venue for the social consciousness of Hunter, who encourages free trading of his live shows.

Alongside drummer Bobby Previte, known in his own right as an experimental musician and performer with mastery of several instruments, Hunter's often expressionistic music was a crowd favorite that brought an uncommonly rich musical experience to a well-known Baltimore venue.

